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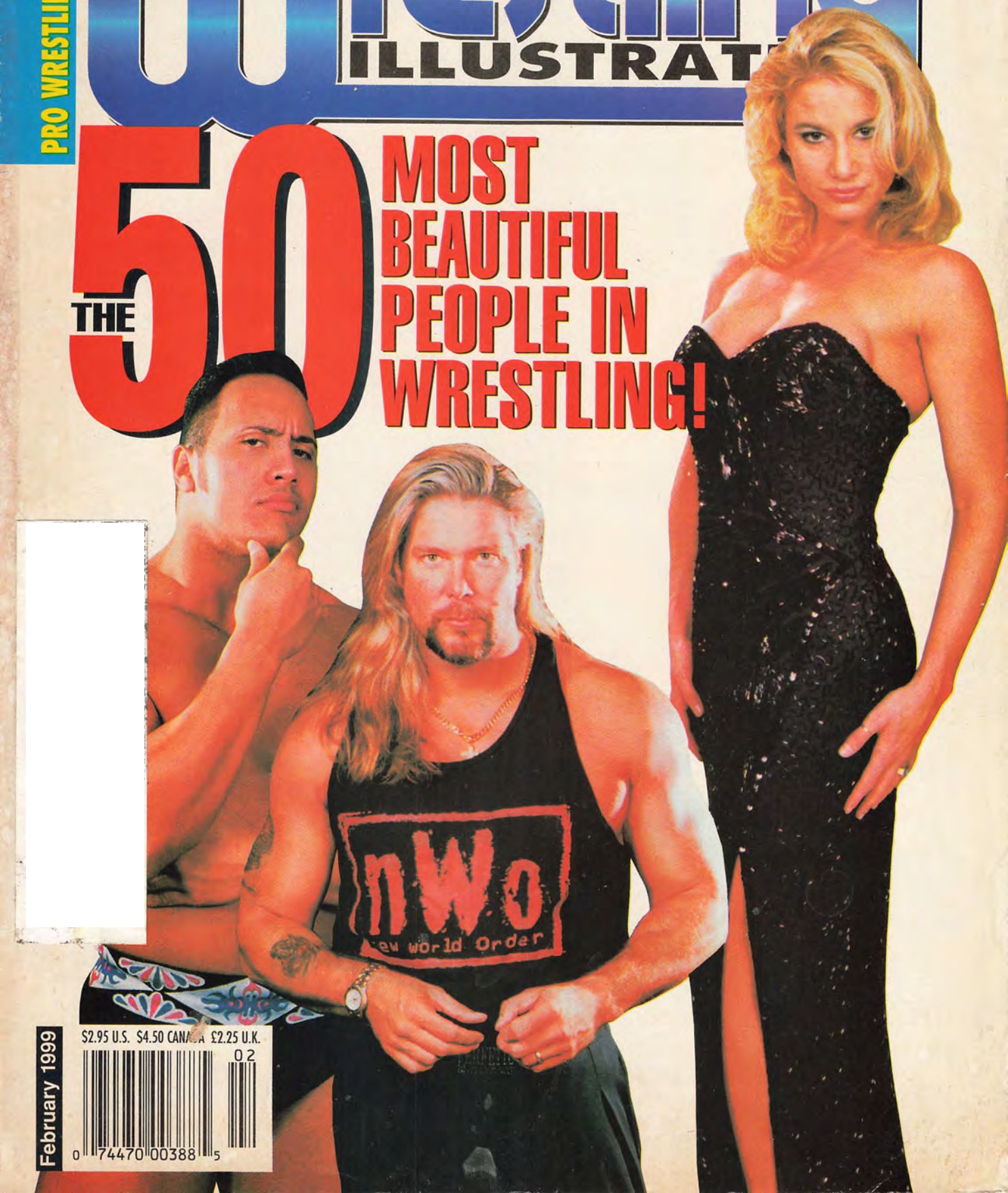
THE 50 MOST BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE IN WRESTLING!



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FEBRUARY 1999

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

COVER PHOTOS:
Tammy Lynn Sytch
by Frank Vitucci
Kevin Nash by Bill Apter
Rocky Maivia by Bill Apter

COVER DESIGN:
Joe Kalman

FEATURES

19 THE 50 MOST BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE IN WRESTLING
Okay, so some of the choices were fairly obvious. Sable ... Tammy Lynn Sytch ... Shawn Michaels ... Kevin Nash. Fine, but that's only four. It wasn't easy compiling this list. We just looked for people involved in this business who have beautiful faces and magnificent bodies. See if you agree with our choices

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FROM THE DESK OF...

ONE OF THE first things I did after returning from vacation in October was check my e-mail on my computer at home. *Yikes!* There were 276 messages waiting for me! After weeding out the inevitable "I'm Yvette, Fly Me!" trash, I still had more than 270 left!

Scrolling through the subject lines, I saw two predominant themes: the "*PWI* 500" and Super Nova. I knew I wasn't going to have fun going through all this mail, particularly after I turned to the alphabetical listing of the "PWI 500" and confirmed what I already suspected: Nova was nowhere to be found. I read each letter word for word, which was the least I could do considering it was my idea to offer an e-mail address for reaction to our 1998 selections.

I don't want to get into a long thing here about the type of mail I received. But I will thank those of you who offered your views in a polite and constructive manner. As for the rest of you, it should be interesting to see how far your intellect takes you in life.

Upon returning to the office, I was made aware of the fact that most of the mail was solicited by a particular Web site that has some affiliation with ECW, where Super Nova does most of his wrestling. Most of these people are probably not even *PWI* readers. Again, my intention here is not to harp on the behavior of these few people. My concern is for the wrestler or wrestlers who inevitably are left off the list each year for one reason or another.

Admittedly, at least one deserving wrestler is left off the list each year because of human error (Rik Ratchet falls into that category). This year, through last-minute shuffling within a huge file, we actually left off an entire number (300), which many of you correctly pointed out. Although we try our best to keep such mistakes at a minimum, they unfortunately will happen. But I'd trade a careless error any day for a judgment error, which brings us to Super Nova.

It was the view of this editorial board that Super Nova did not earn a spot in the "500." Were we wrong? It's quite possible that we were. I'm going to make another admission: As much as we try to find out about everything that's happening in the world of wrestling, it's virtually an impossible task. To some degree, we are dependent on outsiders to keep us up to date on the progress of individual stars. In the case of Super Nova, he scored a few key victories during 1998 that we were not aware of, and which might well have made a big difference in determining his ranking.

To avoid potential errors in the future, we need more active participation on the part of the fans, promoters, and wrestlers themselves to keep us fully informed about significant victories during the course of a year. We're willing to take the heat for errors in the "*PWI* 500," but we're not in this alone. Our goal is to continue to make the "*PWI* 500" as comprehensive and accurate as possible. In spite of my e-mail, I've been told face-to-face by quite a few people that we did a pretty fair job this year. With the help of the entire wrestling industry, we can do even better.

* * *

After writing a two-page column for **Pro Wrestling Illustrated** for the past 19 years, it feels a bit funny to be cramped into less than one page, but that's okay. I'm stepping back a bit to make room for a new column, which I'm sure you're going to find to be tremendously informative and entertaining. "Krew-cuts," which appears on page 16, is a bit of a misnomer. The writer, Associate Editor Frank Krewda, doesn't have short hair. His hair style more closely resembles that of Steve Austin and Bill Goldberg. I'm sure you'll enjoy his work. (I think I'll let him decide, however, if he ever wants to give out his e-mail address!)

* * *

In an effort to keep our ratings as up to date as possible, we have arranged with our printer to hold back those two pages until that last possible instant. You may, therefore, notice some inconsistencies between the champions listed on the ratings pages and those referred to in the remainder of the magazine.

Stu Saks
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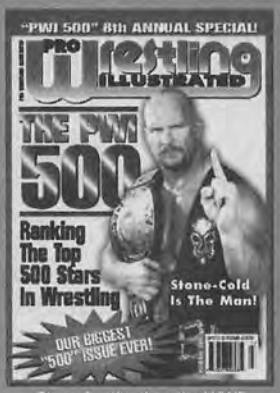

"PWI 500" 8th ANNUAL SPECIAL!
Pro Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
THE PWI 500
Ranking The Top 500 Stars In Wrestling
Stone-Cold Is The Man!
OUR BIGGEST "500" ISSUE EVER!

Steve Austin, then the WWF World champion, was featured on the cover of *PWI*'s Holiday 1998 issue, as he was a consensus selection for the top spot in the 1998 "*PWI* 500." Bill Goldberg was the only other man seriously considered for the top spot when we put together the "500," but the staff felt that "Stone-Cold" accomplished just a little bit more. Most of our readers agreed.

"Goldberg is great," wrote Jen Dineen of Milwaukee, "But Austin did more for his company than Goldberg did for his. Of course, that might change next year."

Teddy Potts of Boston e-mailed us the following: "'Stone-Cold' has paid his dues. Goldberg is still green. I know it's unlikely, but he could fizzle out. He did have a strong year, though."

"You're talking about two men that are so evenly matched that they even look alike," wrote Scott Becker of Pittsburgh. "You could give it to either guy, really, but I guess 'Stone-Cold' gets the vote because he held his belt longer.

WCW PRO ...

The *WCW Monday Nitro* that aired on September 14 was the most remarkable, emotional, and entertaining stretch of wrestling that I have ever witnessed. And I've been watching since 1985.

The return of Ric Flair (and probably Flair's verbal war with Eric Bischoff as well) was one of many reasons Thomas J. Wagner is glad he tuned in to *WCW Monday Nitro* recently.

First there was the transformation of Billy Kidman from itching idiot to cheer-inducing cruiserweight champion. Then we got the truth from Bret Hart, combined with Roddy Piper's pep talk to him. Then came the collapse of Scott Hall, which caused enemies Lex Luger, Konnan, and Kevin Nash to support him at ringside. Finally, there was Goldberg helping Sting to his feet and embracing his foe with one arm while holding the title belt in the other. All of this made that *Nitro* better than any pay-per-view I've ever seen.

Of course, no words can describe the return of Ric Flair. This is what wrestling should be like. Thanks to WCW for the greatest entertainment I've seen in a long time.

THOMAS J. WAGNER
Marrow, GA

... AND CON

If only there were words strong enough for me to convey my extreme discontent with WCW, my pain might not be so great. Unfortunately, the words just are not there.

Eric Bischoff, sir, if you have an original thought in that fat head of yours, would you please share it with us now!

Guess where The Warrior is hanging out these days. Could it be in the rafters? I guess the jerk paid attention to his former tag team partner's career. Now if he could only pay attention in that public speaking class he should be taking.

Most of my hostility comes from the feeling that I've just wasted three hours of my life on *Monday Nitro*. Real good idea not having your World heavyweight champion in the main event, Bischoff, you chump! The only moment of enjoyment I've gotten out of *Nitro* in the last six weeks came from watching Eddy Guerrero lay down in an act of clear defiance against Eric Bischoff and his slave labor tactics. Ted Turner, if you and Time Warner want to keep winning, you need to stop Bischoff now, before he causes the rest of the fans to change the channel. I know my TV is now on USA for life.

JAMES E. McHUGH
Virginia Beach, VA

RAW PAPA

I am responding to the letter titled "Raw Mama" (December 1998). I agree with this woman's opinion that it's okay for little children to watch *Raw*. I have a five-year-old son and a seven-year-old daughter, and I let them watch the WWF all the time—except the bikini contests with Sable.

I feel that my kids are going to pick up swearing and stuff like that at school. I went to a Catholic school and grew up

without cable, and I'm a foul-mouthed, beer-guzzling, finger-popping, blue-collar father and damn proud of it.

HAROLD PAWLIK
Erie, PA

ULTIMATE JOKE

Man, so far The Warrior looks ridiculous—like a wrestler from the '80s transplanted in today's scene. Look at his wardrobe! Weren't those crappy colors banned in the '90s? His dialogue seems like it was taken from a cartoon. And what's with that light show? Shouldn't The Undertaker sue this guy?

Here I thought WCW was beyond gimmickry and outrageous personae. They've always seemed to be more honest than the WWF. And where was the so-called revolution? If talking into a microphone is his idea of a revolution, then The Warrior is living in a fantasy world.

Goldberg should just spear this guy and return him to oblivion, where he has always been at his best.

SABASTIEN LECOUR
Quebec City, Quebec

INGRATE

I am not a big fan of Shawn Michaels, but I must say this: Hunter Hearst Helmsley is an ingrate. Where would HHH be if he had not hooked up with Michaels? He would be wrestling in mid-card matches against the likes of Matt Hardy.

When Hunter and Shawn formed DX, no one claimed to be the leader, and it seemed like an equal partnership, though Shawn had more name recognition.

Also, with Shawn, you never knew what to expect from DX (e.g. playing strip poker in the ring). But without Michaels, you know all you're going to see from DX is crotch-chopping, moaning, and Michael Buffer impersonations.

Although Hunter's wrestling skills have improved since he took over DX, he still has Shawn to thank for giving him a spot in the group. Instead, what does he do? He berates the man who made him a star in the WWF. That makes "Triple-H" an ingrate in my book.

ARTHUR MEDINA
Corpus Christi, TX

The Undertaker is one of many, many wrestlers Steve Austin has beaten cleanly recently. Andrew Elkan was quick to defend "Stone-Cold" when another reader criticized him.

WHO HAS HE BEATEN?

This letter is in response to Cecil Miller's letter ("Steve Who?" December 1998). Who has Steve Austin beaten besides an injured Shawn Michaels, you ask? How about The Undertaker, Kane, Dude Love (twice), Owen Hart, Rocky Maivia, and Hunter Hearst Helmsley, to name a few.

And if you are still complaining about Mike Tyson's fast count at WrestleMania, you must not have noticed that Michaels didn't move for a minute after the count. It wouldn't have mattered if Tyson had slapped the mat 60 times. Yes, "Stone-Cold" has lost to Savio Vega and Bret Hart in the past. But these losses only boosted his desire to win and made him the superstar he is today.

ANDREW ELKAN
Cherry Hill, NJ

NEW TRIPLE THREAT!

Finally, Taz has joined Rob Van Dam and Sabu to create a new Triple Threat in ECW. Candido, Bam Bam, and Shane used to be cool, but they lost momentum thanks to Shane's injuries, and now Candido is fighting almost exclusively against Lance Storm. In the meantime, Bill Alfonso (the best manager in wrestling) managed to sneak up and steal the Triple Threat's thunder.

So now, when Taz wins the heavyweight championship from Shane, the new Triple Threat can take over ECW and force bums like Douglas, Candido, and Bigelow to fight amongst themselves.

JASON GAVIN
Philadelphia, PA □

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI

The cover of *PWI's* February 1989 issue featured a picture of a very intense Lex Luger, who vowed to make NWA World champion Ric Flair pay for his underhanded tactics by taking his title and leaving him for dead. Luger described in gory detail what he intended to do to ensure that the "Nature Boy" never wrestled again. The NWA and all of wrestling braced for a "Lex-plosion."

Elsewhere in the magazine: Sgt. Slaughter declared war on Col. DeBeers in the AWA ... Sting spoke about *his* war with The Four Horsemen in "Press Conference" ... Jake "The Snake" Roberts was featured in the centerfold ... Kerry Von Erich's fans begged him not to wrestle again after his bout with post-concussion syndrome.

Magazine availability: Sold out.

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

WCW WORLD champion **Bill Goldberg** could be on the verge of making a huge mistake. Tiring of hearing all the comments about him being a "one-dimensional" wrestler, he says he intends to alter his style, purposely increasing the length of his matches to be able to show more of his repertoire.

"You'll see me using a lot more different holds," he told me during a recent workout. "It's time for me to show that I am multi-dimensional. By that, I mean you'll see more new wrestling moves I've developed, as well as standard holds that I've just begun to perfect and add to my repertoire. If WCW will give me some matches against some *wrestlers,* not just guys who kick and punch, I can promise people wrestling matches that will blow them away."

If I were Goldberg, I wouldn't worry so much about what others think of him. How many other wrestlers have started their careers with 150-plus consecutive wins? His best strategy would be to continue to do what's made him so successful, and keep some moves under wraps until he absolutely needs them. At that point, his opponent, having never had a chance to scout the move, will not be prepared to defend against it.

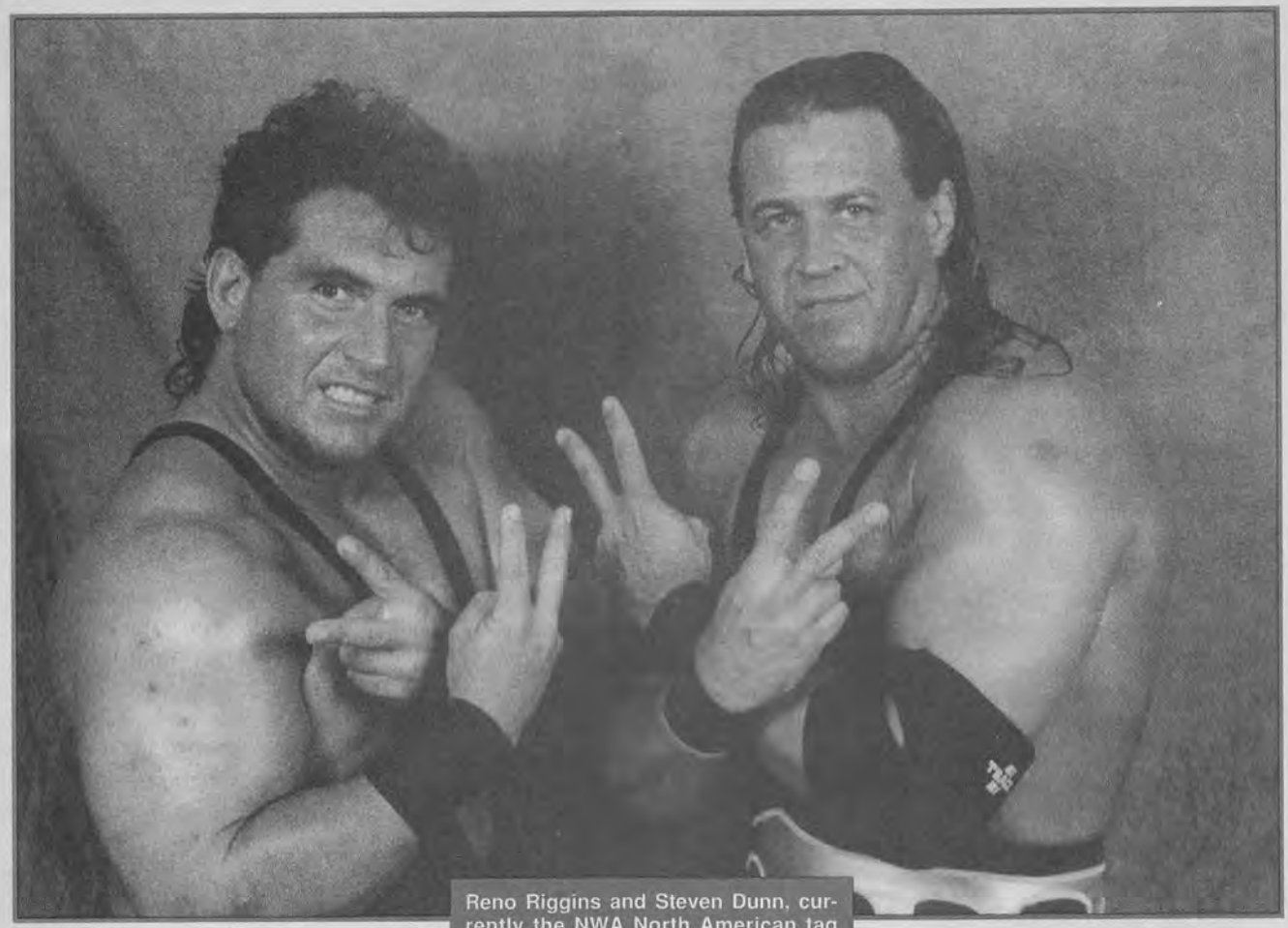
Believe it or not, the comeback of **Goldust** was an event that **Dustin Runnels** really wasn't looking forward to at all.

"From the day I burned the Goldust clothes, no one accepted me for who I really am," Runnels told me. "The fans dissed me, my confidence sunk to an all-time low, and so did my record in the ring. I looked deep into my soul and realized that plain old Dustin Runnels, that tough Texan, couldn't get the job done. It hurts me to know that, so I am hiding behind the facade of Goldust once more, and once more my life has turned around for the better."

When I asked Dustin about his wife, **Terri**, who is obviously very close to **Val Venis** now, he said, "It pains me to say it, but she will pay for the evil she has done and return to the side of Goldust, where she rightfully belongs."

The Border Patrol has regained the NWA tag team belts from **Tully Blanchard** and **Barry Windham**. Both Blanchard and Windham are now reportedly negotiating with WCW ... **Vader**, whose tenure with WWF was to end just days after this magazine went to press, says there is no truth to rumors that he is going to show up in ECW soon. "I won't rule ECW out for somewhere down the road, but I've got my sights set on wrestling in Japan again now," he said. "I've admitted that my career in the WWF didn't go the way I wanted it to, but I think getting back to Japan, the site of

You might not see Goldberg ending all his matches with a "jackhammer" in the near future. He says he has been working on a lot of new holds and moves that he is getting ready to unveil.



Reno Riggins and Steven Dunn, currently the NWA North American tag team champions, have a beef with us. They believe they deserve the number-one spot in our tag team ratings.

some of my greatest wins, will help me get things back on track again."

Reno Riggins and **Steven Dunn** (a.k.a. **The Tennessee Volz**), the reigning NWA North American tag team champions, called to complain that they're not the number-one team in our tag team ratings. "Look at your listings," Dunn pointed out. "You got a broken up team of **Billy Gunn** and **Jesse James** in the number-one spot. That really makes sense. Number two are two guys who are always fighting with each other as well, **Rob Van Dam** and **Sabu**. Yeah, it all looks fine between them in the ring, but **Bill Alfonso** can't keep peace between them for five minutes in the dressing room from what I hear. You don't even rate the WCW champions, **Scott Hall** and **The Giant**, 'cause they never defend the belts.

"So look at it objectively. Me and Reno defend our belts at least four times a week. Me and Reno never argue, and our winning streak cannot be duplicated. It's time to put us up there at number one and give us our due!"

Rocky Maivia has been unable to get a shot at the WWF European title held by his former **Nation** stablemate **D-Lo Brown**. "I don't understand why 'The Rock' wants to lay the smack down on his ol' buddy," D-Lo says. "Sure, I could give him a title shot, especially if there was big money to be made. But unlike D-Lo, 'The Rock' isn't a hot box office commodity, and taking a match against a mid-carder like him just wouldn't be in my best interests."

Jim Cornette has been managing **The Headbangers** on several independent cards and recently signed them for a title match against Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling tag team champions **Reckless Youth** and **Lance Diamond**. "I haven't had time in the WWF to do any managing because of my schedule as a talent scout and a broadcaster," Cornette says. "Now, on my days off, I'm managing again just to keep my magnificent managerial brain sharp!" ... Mid-South Promotions standout **Kevin Northcutt** has signed for several matches in ECW ... **"Psycho" Sid Vicious** has come out of retirement again and won the vacant North East Wrestling heavyweight title. Sid beat **John Diamond** for the title, which had become vacant when previous champion **Bam Bam Bigelow** was stripped for failure to defend it.

Since so many people have

(Continued on page 60)

in focus

By Dave Lenker

A MAN WHO CARES

"Diamond" Dallas Page doesn't fear many things. He fought his way from the bottom of wrestling's barrel to the top, going from bankruptcy to becoming one of the most popular and successful wrestlers in the world. When the NWO got in his face, Page pushed back. In a federation, WCW, where having a partner is the only way to assure at least partial safety, Page chooses to go it alone most of the time.

But as a young boy growing up on the Jersey Shore, Page wasn't totally without fear. It wasn't the big bully down the street he was afraid of, but black words on white paper. The printed word.

"I've never been afraid of anybody or anything," Page said. "As a kid, most things came easy to me. Sports, friends, and my family did their best to provide everything for me. School, and especially reading, was the only thing I feared. I knew I was having trouble in a lot of areas, and I didn't realize that reading was a part of *everything* I did. I worked at it, but I didn't do it well. I was ridiculed by my peers, making it tougher to try and harder to learn.

"It wasn't until well into my adult life that we discovered I had a learning disability and symptoms of dyslexia. I later found out there are varying types and degrees of learning disabilities, and once I got some help, a whole world of opportunity opened for me."

Page has become not only a fearless man, but a selfless man. When the opportunity arose for him to do something for children, he grabbed it in the best way he knew how: by teaming up with a company called Scholastic to provide schools, children, and families with books to promote the fun and benefits of reading. The program is called "Bang It Out For Books."

"I'm used to fighting my opponents in the ring," Page said. "For this match, illiteracy is my opponent, and Scholastic is the best tag team partner I could have."

Every time Page is invited to do a celebrity appearance, he'll donate a portion of his fee to purchase reading material for the community. Scholastic will then match Page's donations.

DDP has overcome a lot of adversity, and only some of it has been in the ring. Because he is dyslexic, he had a hard time reading when he was a kid. Now he's trying to make sure kids today discover how much fun reading can be.

"Every dollar stays in the school district where the appearance is made," Page said. "We make sure of it. That's the best part. I actually get to meet the kids, their parents, and their teachers, and get a feel for the community. In fact, I challenge all area businesses to match my donations. Together, we can all bang it out for books!"

Unlike many athletes, Page realizes that—like it or not—athletes are role models. "I know when I was a kid, the athletes and actors that were my favorites influenced me," Page said. "Outside of my love for kids and belief that the children are and always will be the future, I know that some of the things that are out there are not so positive. Not only is it my pleasure, but I feel it is my responsibility to be a positive influence."

This responsibility is ignored by most athletes. Not Page, an exemplary athlete with an exemplary attitude.

IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder," once said a wise old sage, which is why a list of the 50 most beautiful people in wrestling can include such varied visages as Sable's, Jerry Lawler's, Shane McMahon's, Shawn Michaels', and Francine's. In his column this month, Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum lists his 10 *least* beautiful people in wrestling. I'm going to stay away from that sort of controversy.

Our top 50 list is loyal to another old adage: Beauty is only skin deep. Indeed, on our top 50 list, we weren't concerned with inner beauty or spiritual beauty. We were only concerned with the way a person looked on the outside. Sound shallow? Our plea is guilty.

But if you believe, as I do, that inner beauty contributes to and sometimes overshadows outer beauty, you'll agree that just because *PWI* devoted an entire issue to physical beauty doesn't mean it's more important than spiritual beauty.

For example, "Diamond" Dallas Page is, by most standards, not the most handsome man, so you won't find him on our list of the 50 most beautiful people in wrestling. He is, however, as his charitable actions prove, a man full of inner beauty.

Eric Bischoff doesn't have much inner beauty. Most people would call him downright obnoxious and full of himself. But he is considered a good-looking guy. Until he opens his mouth, of course.

Marc Mero is also considered physically beautiful by some, but he isn't widely considered beautiful in other ways, mainly because of the way he has treated Sable. But you should know that Mero donates a great deal of time to children's hospitals and is actually one of the most charitable men in the sport. So, surprisingly, Mero combines spiritual with physical beauty.

We didn't forget him. It was not an oversight. George "The Animal" Steele just didn't belong on our list of the 50 most beautiful people in wrestling. But in a lot of ways, he is a very beautiful man.

George "The Animal" Steele has a funny-shaped noggin and a thick mat of hair covering his back, but I've always considered him a kind, peaceful soul who is misunderstood. Kind of like the beast in *Beauty And The Beast*. Many animals aren't naturally mean. People make them mean. Years ago, when he was courting Elizabeth, Steele exposed his inner beauty. You could see the kindness in his soulful eyes. The love. The yearning. No lust. Just the desire to protect Elizabeth.

Physical beauty. Spiritual beauty. Under the best circumstances, they go together. In this issue, however, physical beauty must stand on its own. □

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PWI DREAM TOURNAMENT: OPENING ROUND
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PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
NITRO'S DEATH MATCH
PWI'S PLAN TO PREVENT ARMAGEDDON
By Dave Rosenbaum
THIS ALL STARTED so innocently. WCW put Nitro on opposite the WWF's Raw. Now, nearly two years later, the war that fascinated us all threatens to devour the sport we all love. It's no longer just about winning the Monday night ratings battles. It seems like every move each federation makes is meant to hurt the other ... humiliate the other ... crush the other. When will the madness end? We can only hope it's soon, because if it doesn't, WCW or the WWF could cease to exist. And if that happened, wrestling in North America could be in very serious trouble.
(Continued on page 28)
November 1997

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4752/07-98/2-C

off the top rope

by Brandi Mankiewicz

If you wish to contribute to Brandi's mailbag, send your letters to:

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(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Brandi Mankiewicz herself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

THE NEWFOUND CRAZE that is professional wrestling has led to a significant increase in merchandise sales. The other day, I saw a commercial for "Bone-Crunching Buddies," which are modern-day "Wrestling Buddies" with more realistic features and joints that creak more than Bruno Sammartino getting up from his easy chair.

One can choose from Steve Austin, Dude Love, Undertaker, and Shawn Michaels. ***Hmmmmm,*** *Michaels, eh? What an interesting choice. I understand that if you bend the joint in any direction that could cause even a mild discomfort, the "buddy" immediately disappears for several months. Plus, he has a removable parts, including his convictions and his smile. And don't forget to fill him up with water so those tear ducts can flow.*

I know that you're waiting for the "Brandi Buddy," but that will only exist in the recesses of your sick imaginations. No replica is required. The real thing is all you need, for that and that alone is your champion.

Dear Brandi,

I got a short question for you: Who do you think the best rookie in wrestling is?

MATT RASIN
jaws30@hotmail.com

Matt:

It's a little early for me to be revealing my choice, but in a few months, you will see the real year-end Achievement Awards in *Wrestling Bad Guys (Wrestle America*, February 1999). As of this writing, there is only one clear choice: Vincent K. McMahon. His more hands-on approach to his executive position has paid off big time. His two ring appearances showed a potential that was shielded by the antics of Dude Love and the cowardly "Stone-Cold." What rookie wrestler has had more influence?

You people get to choose who wins the award for *PWI* Rookie of the Year. I'll give you my selection right here. You might refer to him as Vinnie Mac. You should call him *Mr.* McMahon.

Dearest Brandi:

What is wrong with me? All I want is for Sting to cut his hair short, dye it blond, and paint an American flag on his face.

MATTHEW KREUTER
mattkreuter@kmc-controls.com

Matthew:

This goes for other readers as well. Don't ever ask me what is wrong with you. It is a loaded question that could take me years to answer completely and accurately. It is also a question that keeps me up at night—even with my door triple-locked. But the crux of your inquiry is that you want the old Sting back. Trust me, Matt, he is. The hair may be darker, and the face paint may be different, but it is still Sting. No one has done so little with so much. Sure, he can win the WCW World title, but he does not have the mettle and discipline to hold it. I liked him better when he was sullen, quiet, and, most of all, when he did not wrestle.

Dear Brandi:

I am a Hollywood fan, and it makes me sick that wrestlers like Piper, DDP, Sting, and The Warrior are going after Hollywood, since going after Hogan makes you popular. This proves that Hollywood is where the power and stardom lies. Brandi, what do you think of all these wrestlers using Hogan as a booster for their careers and popularity?

STEVEN GEEERD
Rotterdam, Holland

Steven:

For the record, you're above your quota for consecutive vowels in one name. Hogan is a lightning rod for every wrestler who wants to court the favor of the fans. They all have spotty pasts that they deny, yet they

Feel free to praise Steve Austin all you want. I choose not to praise him at all. Maybe if he had beaten both The Undertaker and Kane at Break Down, I would have written something nice. Too bad he didn't.

pass judgment on a man like Hollywood. Can you say hypocritical? Piper, in particular, is obsessed with Hogan, because by battling his long-time foe, he can validate his off-and-on presence in WCW.

Dear Brandi:

I agree with a lot of things you say in your column. However, I can't see how you can put down "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin, the definitive anti-hero of the '90s. He has singlehandedly put the WWF back on top, and since becoming WWF World champion, he turned back the challenges of everyone he's faced. It isn't that he "sold out" to the fans. The fans simply began to appreciate how he got things done in the ring, like when The Road Warriors first started.

RICHARD BURTON
richardburton@hotmail.com

Richard:

First of all, the term "anti-hero" is the singlemost overused term in the history of pro wrestling. Austin does not embrace it. He hides behind it. Secondly, you're right. The fans did appreciate him first. But if he had character and resolve, he would have rebuffed their affection like a true "tough S.O.B." would. Third, and for the record, *Mr. McMahon* put the WWF back on top. It's his presence on television that has put the WWF back on top ratings-wise. Now go kiss Liz goodnight.

Brandi:

You wouldn't happen to know exactly what happened to the two greatest wrestlers in world history, The Bushwhackers, would you? I love those guys. A few years ago, they disappeared all of a sudden. If you have any idea where they could be, please let me know. Thanks.

ED STIFFEN
destructive35@hotmail.com

Ed:

After reading your letter, I added a fourth lock to my door. Want to know what's wrong with you?

Dear Brandi:

I think Chris Jericho is one of the most talented wrestlers in the world. It's not just that—it's that he breaks rules and has great microphone talent. Jericho is what a rulebreaker should be, a real student of the game, someone who uses the rules to his advantage. So, Brandi, what do you think about Jericho? I personally think he is the best.

MATT SQUIZZATO
Windsor, Ontario

Matt:

Okay, it's "Matt Month" for "Off The Top Rope." Jericho has proved that you can turn bad without joining a wrestling clique or changing your T-shirt. He has made a fool out of Jo-Jo Dillon with his expansive knowledge of WCW regulations. I always boast about McMahon's ability to bend the rules in his favor, but he wrote the rulebook and always has it at his disposal. Jericho takes time out of his hectic schedule to educate himself. Real Goldberg or fake Goldberg, Jericho could be wearing the big belt before long. □

Last I saw The Bushwhackers, they were in ECW posing as Dudleys. If you don't have better things to worry about than the whereabouts of Butch and Luke, you have serious problems.

KREW-CUTS

By Frank Krewda

Title Talk. Is there a bigger joke in professional wrestling than the WWF Women's title?

Let's face it—nobody cares *why* **Sable** and **Jacquelyn** meet in the ring, just as long as they produce a jiggle-fest when they do.

And that's fine with me, as long as **Vince McMahon** doesn't try to pass off the exhibition as competition—which is exactly what he's trying to do with the resurrection of the Women's title.

See, I believe that most WWF fans like watching Jackie pop out of her top and get a charge out of Sable when she shows up at a pay-per-view wearing nothing more than dental floss. But for crying out loud, Vince, don't masquerade the peep show as a "women's division"—especially when that "division" consists solely of three marvelously endowed women.

Jackie, **Luna**, and Sable are talented wrestlers, but if McMahon really wants to promote their "wrestling skills," he'll bring more female wrestlers into the WWF and hold a tournament for the belt.

The Name Game. What's in a name? Apparently, a lot. After all, 10 wrestlers with the same first name can't be wrong. Seems like just about every other promotion has a wrestler named Shane or Lance (or both) on its roster. Let's see: There's **Lance Starr**, **Lance Storm**, **Lance Diamond**, **Lance Malinowski**, **Lance Jade**, **Lance Pendragon**, **Lance Gaylord**, **Lance Dreamer**, and **Lance Wright**. Plus you have **Shane Douglas**, **Shane Austin**, **Shane Eden**, **Shane the Glamour Boy**, **Shane Hooker**, **Shane Helms**, **Shane Shadows**, **Shane Wild**, **Shane Dynasty**, and **Shane Sawyer**. If I forgot someone, Shane on me.

Maybe **Horace** and indy wrestler **Danger Boy Alfredo** will spot this trend and change their names to Lance or Shane or something that sounds even remotely like the name of a professional wrestler. *Horace ... Alfredo ...* Are you kidding me?

Even WCW broadcaster **Tony Schiavone** is trying to get a handle on his handle lately. Schiavone experimented with a few monikers on the September 24 *Thunder*. His buddies **Dallas Page**, **Ric Flair**, **Arn Anderson**, and **Alex Wright** all floated a name by him. On that show, Schiavone was referred to as "T-Bone" by DDP; "Tony-O" by Arn; "Antonio" by Flair; and "a fat pig of a man" by Wright. Wonder which one will stick.

And does anybody know what possessed **Hollywood Hogan** to start calling himself "'Wood"? Doesn't he know that stupid nicknames always sound much worse when they are self-inflicted?

Rock 'n' Wrestling, Part II. If you think **The Warrior** and **The Disciple** have benefited from the recent wrestling craze, look at what the renewed interest has done for the British metal band **AC/DC**. Ten years or so after the group's best songs were initially released, AC/DC's music is suddenly "out there" again—thanks mainly to Extreme Championship Wrestling.

Several ECW wrestlers use AC/DC tunes as entrance music, including **Chris Candido** ("Back In Black"); **Spike Dudley** ("Highway To Hell");

Sable and Jackie are very nice to look at, and they can wrestle, too. But has Vince McMahon insulted the WWF by basing a women's division around their "T & A" show?

If Dean Malenko is the "Man Of 1,000 Holds," then Tony Schiavone is a man of 1,000 nicknames. Well, at least four. DDP, Ric Flair, and Arn Anderson all have a cool nickname for Schiavone, but Alex Wright's isn't so flattering.

Tommy Rogers ("You Shook Me All Night Long"); and **Mahoney** ("Big Balls"). And the WWF made "Highway To Hell" the official score of its second-most important pay-per-view event of the year, SummerSlam. Who said wrestling couldn't recapture that '80s thing?

State Of The Game. The Vikings might gotten off to a good start, but I doubt the state of Minnesota will ever become famous for its contributions to the NFL, NBA, or Major League Baseball. Sure, the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers produce a decent hockey player every now and then, but you just don't find too many home-grown Minnesotans toiling in professional sports.

Except, of course, in professional wrestling, where the ranks are just crawling with North Star natives.

Ric Flair is from Minnesota. So are **X-Pac** and **Curt Hennig**. **Scott Norton, Rick Rude, Jerry Lynn**—all from the "Land Of 10,000 Lakes." Minnesota has also given us **Bob Backlund, Jim Brunzell, Jesse Ventura, Paul Diamond, Wayne Bloom, John Nord, Tom Zenk**, and **Charlie Norris**, among others.

True, Texas and Georgia have always been regarded as great producers of wrestling talent, but I suspect that per capita, more wrestlers might hail from Minnesota than any other region in the world—except, naturally, for that legendary grappling hotbed called "Parts Unknown."

Buzz Cuts ... Believe WWF officials when they say they're impressed with **Steve Austin's** "charisma." They must be. Austin's been arrested at least four times in the last six months and *still* has a job. Apparently, there's no "three-strike" policy in the WWF ... Will somebody please tell **Bret Hart** that he works for WCW, not *the* WCW ... And while you're at it, tell DDP that **Bill Goldberg** is a "phenom"—not a "phenon," which sounds more like a poisonous gas than a World champion ... Wonder how WCW President **Eric Bischoff** feels about the recent **DX**-inspired crotch-chopping from **Davey Boy Smith, Scott Steiner**, and **Sting** ... Here's why ECW fans are so loyal: After a recent card in Queens, ECW owner **Paul Heyman** handed out a videotape of three ECW television shows to the fans—free of charge. Why? Because fans in New York had been unable to watch ECW on TV since the formation of the PAX Network, whose owner decided wrestling was not suitable family programming. While ECW was in the process of finding a new cable outlet, Heyman wanted to show his loyalty to the enthusiastic New York fans. That little p.r. gem cost Heyman $4,100, but it will certainly pay off in the long run.

If anybody tries to remove this column from *PWI*, I promise to write it anyway and send photocopies to all of you! □

ECW fans really have something to cheer about. Although ECW lost its cable outlet in New York, the fans didn't miss any of the weekly shows thanks to a generous gift from Paul Heyman.

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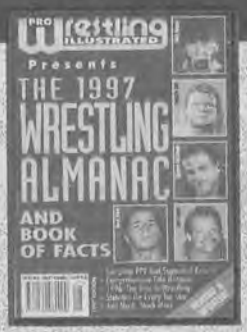

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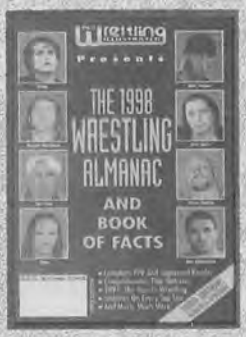

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THE 50 MOST BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE IN WRESTLING!

*THE HOLIDAY 1998 issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED contained our eighth annual edition of the "**PWI** 500," a list of the top 500 stars in the sport.*

This issue has absolutely nothing to do with that.

*In fact, this issue has nothing to do with anything we've ever done before. It's an issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED that might look like it needs the word **People** on the top of the cover. This issue of **PWI** deals with the glamorous side of wrestling. Glitz and beauty, muscles and hard bodies, flowing blonde (or blond) hair and perfect pecs.*

*The editors of **PWI** are about to get shallow on you, because in this issue, we're presenting "The 50 Most Beautiful People In Wrestling."*

And we're not talking about spiritual beauty.

No, to tell you the truth, we don't give a darn whether the 50 men and women we're presenting can wrestle a lick or put together a coherent sentence.

For the purposes of this special section, when we look at Sable, we see a great body and a beautiful face. When we look at Bill Goldberg, we see a fierce, menacing glare and a rock-hard body. When we look at Elizabeth, we see a mature woman who is by no means past her prime. And when we look at Jerry Lawler, we see a man who has aged very nicely.

*These are the men and women of your dreams. Wrestlers. Valets. Managers. Even the occasional promoter and broadcaster was thrown in for good measure. If wrestling ever held a fashion show, these people would be the models. If **Playboy** ever did a layout on the men and women of wrestling, these would be the top candidates.*

Sure, all these people are a lot more than a pretty face.

For now, all we care about are the pretty faces. And the hot bodies.

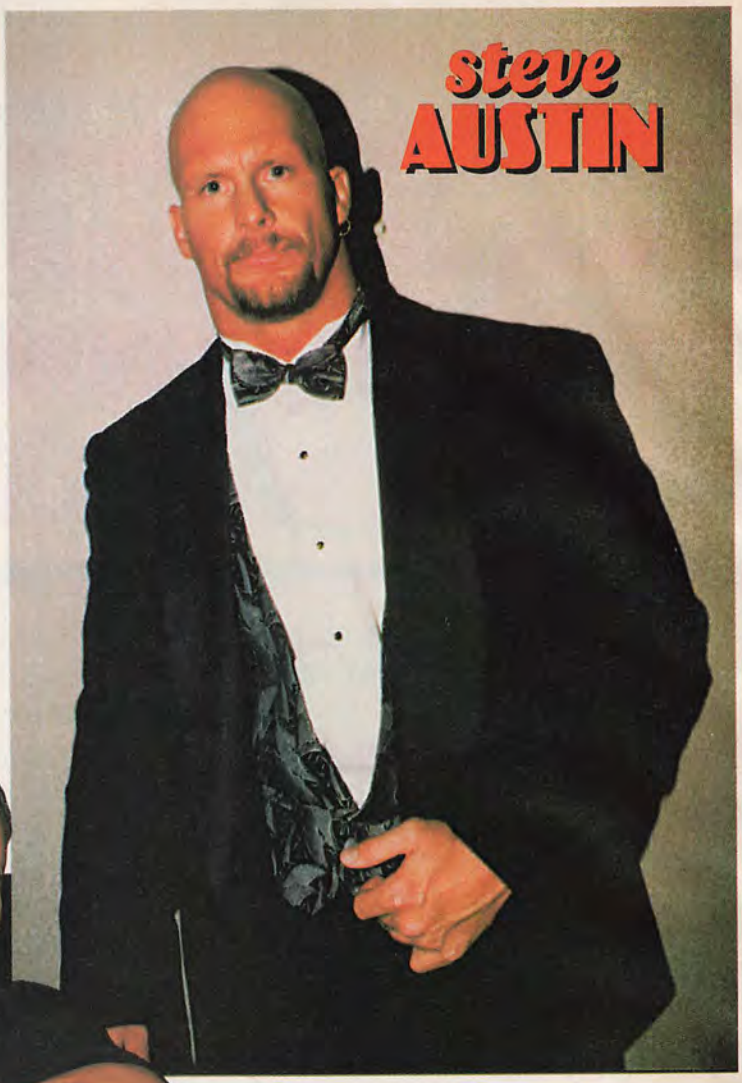
Yeah, this special section is a bit gossipy. You're right—our mothers told us it's not polite to stare. And, of course, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

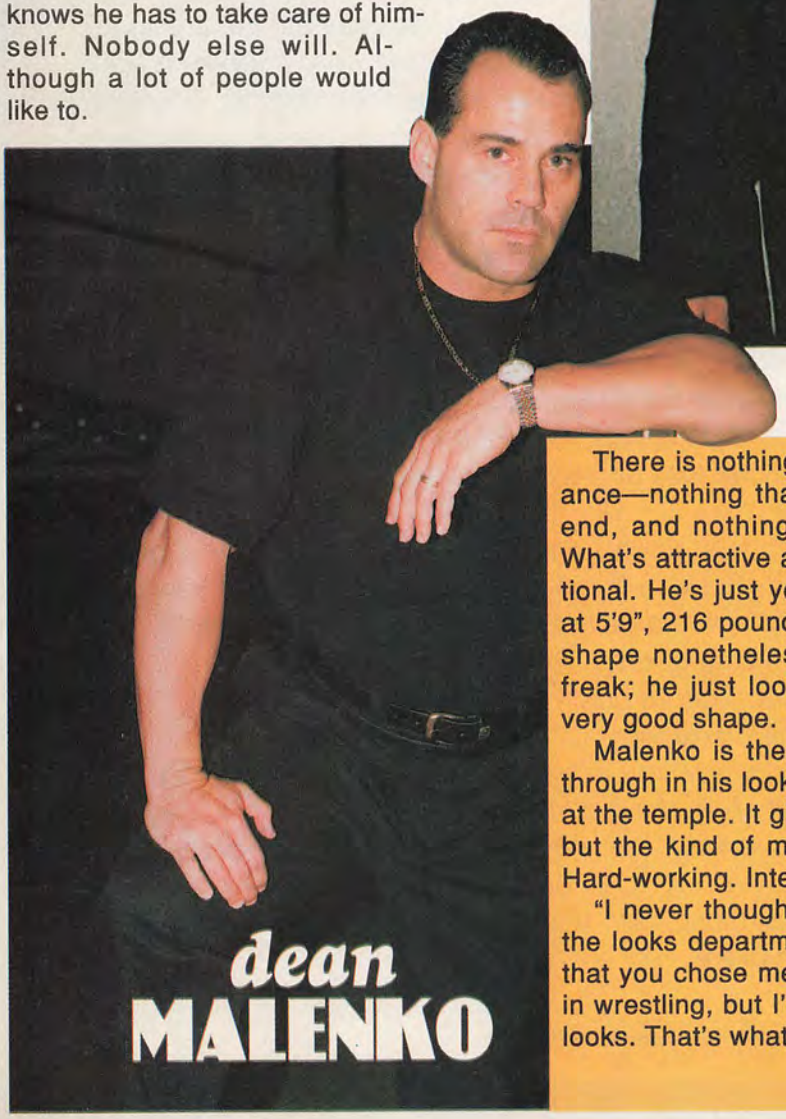
Whatever. We're gossiping. We're staring. We love beholding the beauty of these 50 beautiful people.

In a sport filled with broken bones, blood, and scarred warriors, they make the world of wrestling a much more attractive place.

Men wear his shirts on their backs. Women wear his heart on their sleeves. To men, "Stone-Cold" means tough, no-nonsense, aggressive, and ready to defend his territory against all aggressors. He has taken on the rich boss—every working man's fantasy—and so far, he has won. To women, he is the biker adonis with the well-toned body and the ferocious persona. His "Stone-Cold" image comes through with one glance. Just one look from him makes most men cringe and most women coo. And the clean-shaven head works so much better for him than his old, blond locks.

The WWF has never had a champion like Austin. It had Bruno Sammartino, who appealed to the wholesome fans. It had Hulk Hogan, who appealed to the younger set. Austin is different. A rebel who doesn't care what anybody thinks. His word is gospel, "cause 'Stone-Cold' said so." In other words, he doesn't answer to anybody but himself. He is an independent man who knows he has to take care of himself. Nobody else will. Although a lot of people would like to.





There is nothing startling about Dean Malenko's appearance—nothing that would make a woman's hair stand on end, and nothing that makes him stick out in a crowd. What's attractive about Malenko is that he's nothing sensational. He's just your average handsome guy. A little small at 5'9", 216 pounds, not overly muscular, but in very good shape nonetheless. Malenko doesn't look like a muscle freak; he just looks like an athlete who keeps himself in very good shape.

Malenko is the quiet, calculating type, and that comes through in his looks. He has short black hair that's receding at the temple. It gives him the everyman look. No teen idol, but the kind of man upon whom a woman could depend. Hard-working. Intelligent. Daring.

"I never thought of myself as having anything special in the looks department," Malenko said. "I guess I'm honored that you chose me as one of your 50 most beautiful people in wrestling, but I'd rather win titles than be admired for my looks. That's what this is all about."

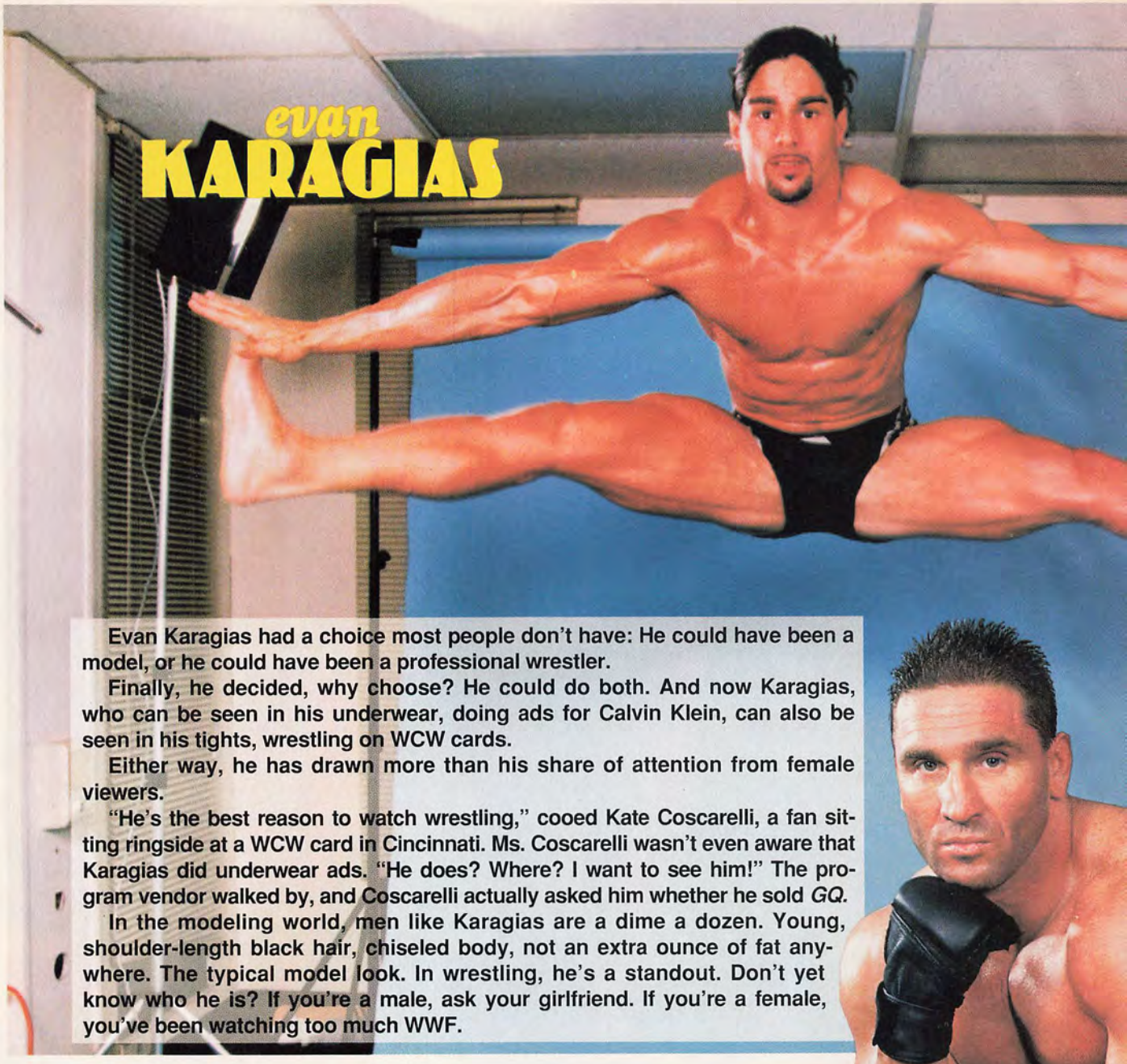
Photo courtesy of TitanSports

SABLE

Sable's beauty is so obvious that you have to wonder whether there's any mystery about her at all. The long blonde hair, the high cheekbones, the hour-glass figure. She is a Barbie doll come to life, with her impossible proportions and incredible tan. She is the woman little girls wanted to be; she is the woman young boys didn't realize they were looking at when they saw their little sisters playing with dolls.

For all that is obvious about Sable, however, there is something else: her mental toughness, the mischievous look, and the idea that she is a woman who loves to be saved. Her former beau, Marc Mero, was mean to her. He mistreated her, and we wonder why. And we see the look on her face, the one that says, "You can have me if you're nice to me," and we wonder, *For real?*

evan KARAGIAS



Evan Karagias had a choice most people don't have: He could have been a model, or he could have been a professional wrestler.

Finally, he decided, why choose? He could do both. And now Karagias, who can be seen in his underwear, doing ads for Calvin Klein, can also be seen in his tights, wrestling on WCW cards.

Either way, he has drawn more than his share of attention from female viewers.

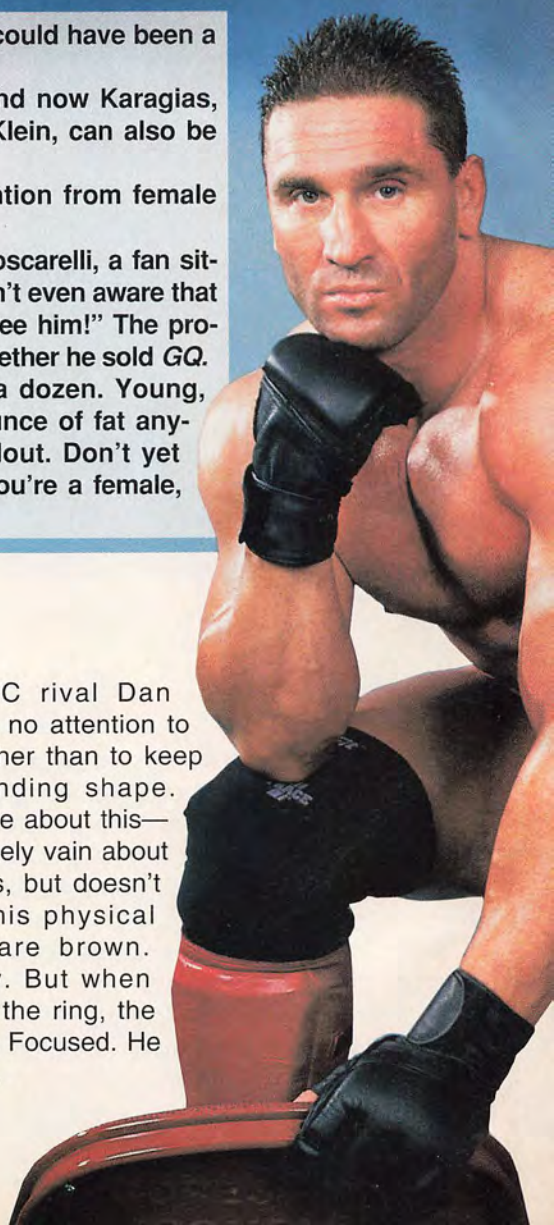
"He's the best reason to watch wrestling," cooed Kate Coscarelli, a fan sitting ringside at a WCW card in Cincinnati. Ms. Coscarelli wasn't even aware that Karagias did underwear ads. "He does? Where? I want to see him!" The program vendor walked by, and Coscarelli actually asked him whether he sold *GQ*.

In the modeling world, men like Karagias are a dime a dozen. Young, shoulder-length black hair, chiseled body, not an extra ounce of fat anywhere. The typical model look. In wrestling, he's a standout. Don't yet know who he is? If you're a male, ask your girlfriend. If you're a female, you've been watching too much WWF.

ken SHAMROCK

Ken Shamrock has gone into the heat of battle and survived. "The World's Most Dangerous Man" isn't quite boasting. Not only did his body survive numerous Ultimate Fighting Championships and move on to a healthy career in the WWF, but his face survived, too. Somehow, he managed to keep his handsome good looks out of the fray.

Shamrock, however, seems completely unaware of how handsome he is, which might be part of the appeal, too. He is so focused on his career, so determined to destroy former UFC rival Dan Severn, that he pays no attention to his physical looks, other than to keep his body in outstanding shape. There's something nice about this—a man who is completely vain about his professional goals, but doesn't care a whit about his physical beauty. His eyes are brown. They're soft. Kindly. But when Shamrock steps into the ring, the eyes become intense. Focused. He is a man on a mission.



Shawn MICHAELS

Shawn Michaels has made the improbable progression from teeny-bopper sex symbol to full-fledged all-aged female heartthrob. As a long-haired member of The Midnight Rockers in the mid-1980s, he was the pinup boy of little girl wrestling fans everywhere. But his association with partner Marty Jannetty and The Rockers' rock 'n' roll theme made Michaels about as uncool as could be with the older set.

Then Michaels cut his hair just a bit, buffed up, went out on his own in the WWF, and became one of wrestling's most wanted men. It's not just the sparkling blue eyes and the tight torso with the washboard stomach that makes Michaels so popular among the female set. It's the air of confidence that shines through a million-dollar smile, that naughty boy cat-who-ate-the-canary look that drives women wild, because they know where's he's been, and they hope they know where he's going.

Photo courtesy of TitanSports

al SNOW

One look in Al Snow's piercing brown eyes tells you all you need to know: He's not all there. His elevator doesn't go all the way to the penthouse. Both of his oars aren't in the water. His is a vacant stare—there's a glint of white somewhere in the eye coloring—that always keeps you wondering what's going through his mind, what's he thinking, why does a man who is this good looking walk around with a mannequin's head.

If insanity is a thing of beauty, then Al Snow is the embodiment. He tosses his head back and forth in the ring as if demons have occupied his brain, but your eye is immediately drawn to his lightened hair. Your eyes shift back and forth between the eyes and the hair, the hair and the eyes. Which is more compelling? Why did God make such an appealing creature and then make his mind so imperfect? Is it a tease? Or temptation? Al Snow is the kind of guy who can get a girl into a lot of trouble, but what kind of trouble will it be?

ELIZABETH

She used to be the party girl with her short cocktail dresses, long, thin legs, and pretty little face. She was the beauty to the beast, the love-starved George "The Animal" Steele. She tamed the savage in Randy "Macho Man" Savage and turned him into a champion. And she broke millions of male hearts when she finally married Savage at SummerSlam '91.

Elizabeth is no longer the little girl in cocktail dresses, but time has been good to her. She has loved, she has hurt, she has won, she has lost, and it all shows on a face that is full of expression, even sometimes full of compassion, although she hangs out with NWO Hollywood. She has become the beautiful and mature woman; her legs are fuller, her upper body is fuller, even her face is fuller, yet she is somehow more appealing, even sexier, than she used to be. Her laugh is no longer a 21-year-old's giggle, but a full-fledged woman's laugh with lots of gusto.

No wonder Eric Bischoff likes keeping her by his side. She makes him look better.

shane McMAHON

First there was Vince Sr., then there was Vince Jr., and now there's Shane McMahon. Sometimes the family business is a hardware store, sometimes the family business is a car dealership, and sometimes the family business is the world's most famous wrestling organization. Shane McMahon had it made the second he popped out of his mommy's womb. Rumor has it he didn't cry for a second. He just laughed out loud at his luck.

Shane McMahon has what Robert Kennedy Jr. has, what Crystie Hefner has, what George Walker Bush has. Fortunate genes. His went swimming in the right pool.

The son of Vince McMahon Jr. is also a little better looking than his old man. Although he inherited the poise and—unfortunately—the overbearing broadcasting style of pompous Vince, he has deep, soulful blown eyes (kind of like a cocker spaniel's) and a beautiful baby face.

He's cute. In a rich heir kind of way.

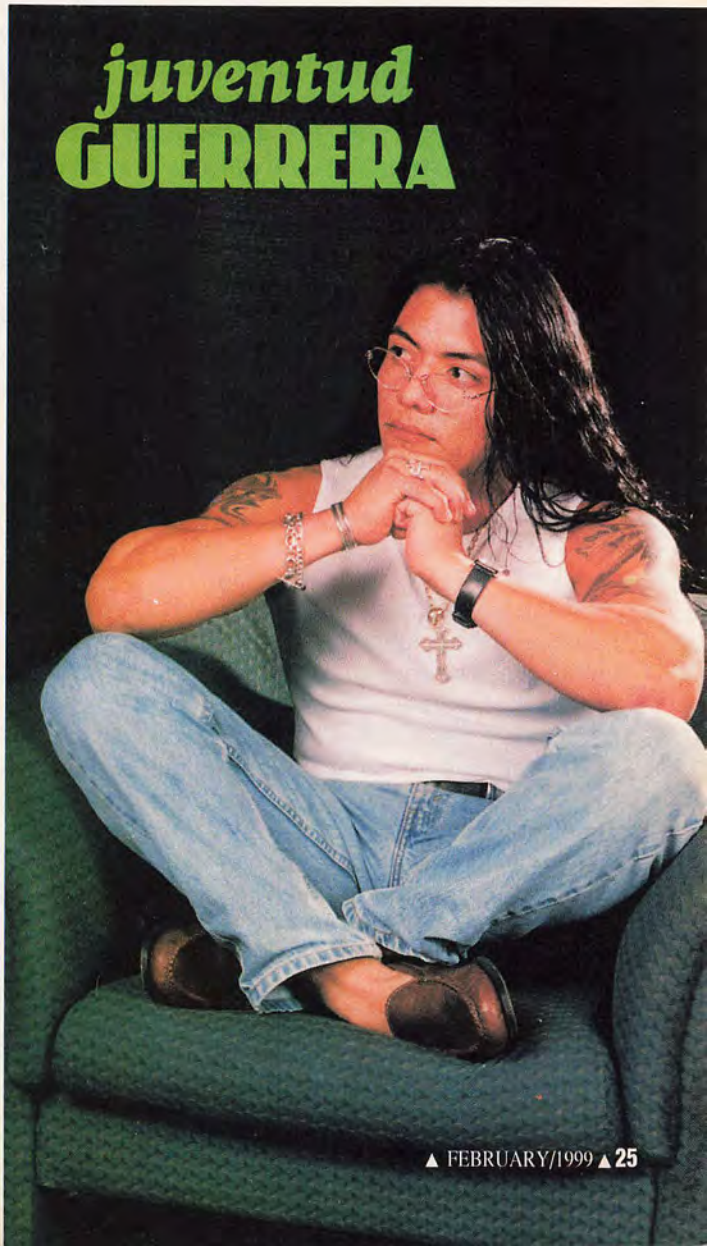
Little Juventud Guerrera. A 5'5", 165-pound dynamo. Dark Mexican skin. Long black hair. And before you dismiss him because of his size, remember this: Actor Dudley Moore, who can't be an inch above 5'5", was once married to super tall supermodel Susan Anton, who had him by at least nine inches. Juvi's small, but he has courage. He executes high-risk moves outside the ring and never shies away from putting his body on the line.

The key question about Juvi: "If he's so good-looking, why was he hiding his face under that mask for so long?"

Juvi's answer, spoken in broken English: "Ever heard of Zorro?"

Actually, the answer is that wearing a mask was a tradition for Juventud Guerrera, which is another reason he's one of wrestling's most beautiful people. He respects his past. He doesn't dismiss old-fashioned ideas like tradition and family. Juventud Guerrera is a great thing in a little package. Loyalty is his most beautiful asset.

juventud GUERRERA



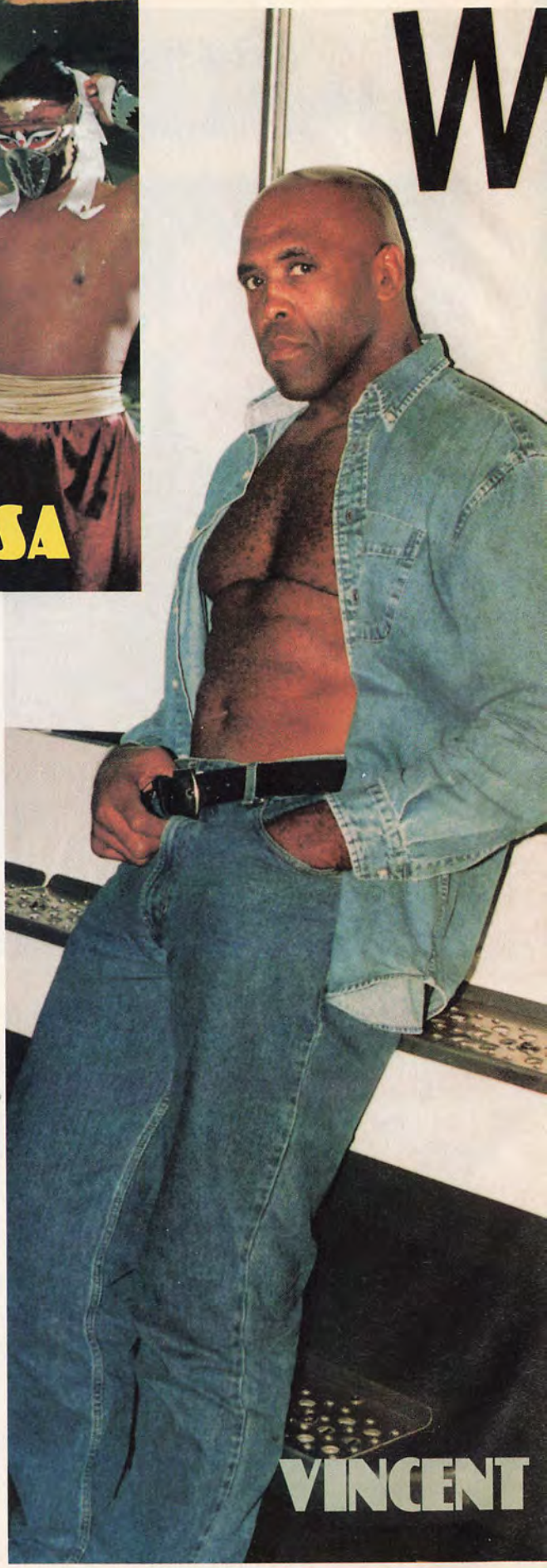
HAYABUSA

The masked high-flying maniac from Frontier Martial Arts Wrestling has developed quite a following for his death-defying ring maneuvers. Every time Hayabusa goes airborne, odds are he's going to wind up with a busted face and a few broken bones. But he usually lands with his solid body and striking face intact. Men marvel at his moves. Women marvel at his piercing brown eyes and long black hair.

Part of Hayabusa's appeal comes from his willingness to try anything once.

"He's a real man," said Kim Kerwin of Dayton, Ohio. "He isn't afraid of things. He doesn't consider the consequences of his actions. He just acts. He's impulsive, compulsive, and not at all repulsive."

Thanks for the nursery rhyme, Kim. Hayabusa keeps his body lithe and in tip-top shape so he can execute his flying maneuvers with little wind drag. He's a man on a mission.



VINCENT

Vincent—formerly known as Virgil—exemplifies two beautiful things: longevity and loyalty. He also has a great smile. He's been around forever, wrestling for any little promo that would feed him, and also working as a bodyguard. He's been at the top of the mountain and the depths of the valley, experiencing all the highs and lows the sport throws at a journeyman. He joined the NWO and retained his place in the limelight. Vincent is the working stiff's gift to pro wrestling. He's a lunchpail guy. If he was an actor, he would have been one of the guys in *The Full Monty.* Doing anything for a buck.

By the way, Vincent wasn't amused when we informed him he had made our list. In fact, he shot Senior Editor Bill Apter a look that said, "Don't bother me with this nonsense." But finally he said, "I'm glad you noticed. But let me let you in on a little secret: You're not the first."

jerry LAWLER

Jerry Lawler made his ring debut in 1970, just two years before Pedro Morales battled Bruno Sammartino to a 75-minute time-limit draw at Shea Stadium, just six years before Antonio Inoki and Muhammad Ali had their memorably boring wrestler vs. boxer match.

In other words, he has been around to see a lot of memorable events.

But Jerry Lawler still looks great. Sure, he doesn't look like a 20-year-old, but he has retained his youthful looking face and his youthful attitude.

"It's no coincidence," said Stacy Carter, Lawler's long-time girlfriend. "He thinks young, so he looks young. He doesn't worry about anything that isn't too important. That's what makes him so sexy. Mentally, he's younger than most 21-year-olds, and he looks great. Plus he has a great sense of humor."

Maybe the old saying about age being all in the head really is true. "The King" of Memphis is living proof.

billy KIDMAN

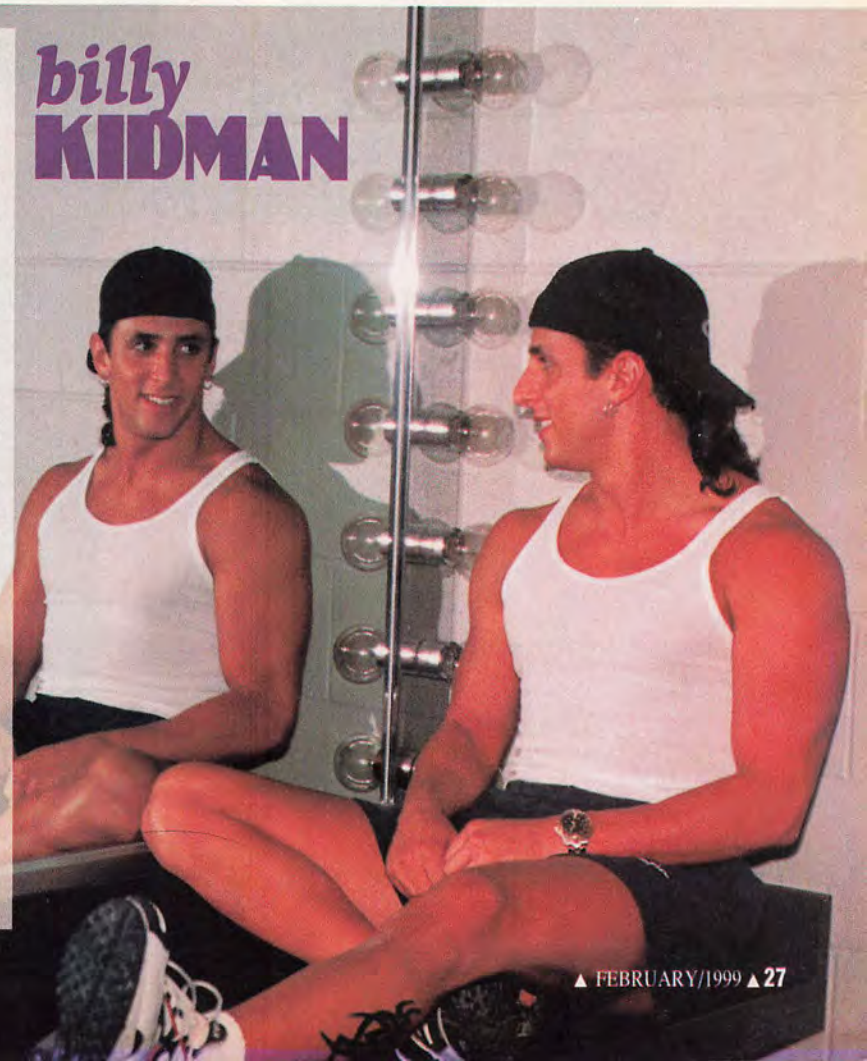
Billy Kidman turned a lot of heads when he defeated Juventud Guerrera for the WCW cruiserweight title at *Nitro* on September 14. But heads had already been turning for this former member of The Flock, who has cleaned up his act in more ways than one.

In the ring, he's no longer a supporting member of Raven's group. Outside the ring, he's gained major points in the personal hygiene department.

"There's no delicate way of saying this," said Managing Editor Brandi Mankiewicz. "He used to scratch himself alot. I don't know if he was conscious of it, although I guess it was, because he doesn't scratch himself anymore."

Added Brandi: "I don't know of too many women who are attracted to men that scratch themselves."

Now that Kidman isn't scratching himself, women are paying attention to his jet-black hair, great smile, and amazing ability. As Kid Flash on the independent circuit, he was your typical boy-next-door guy, but he has matured into a handsome young man with an evil streak buried deep inside.



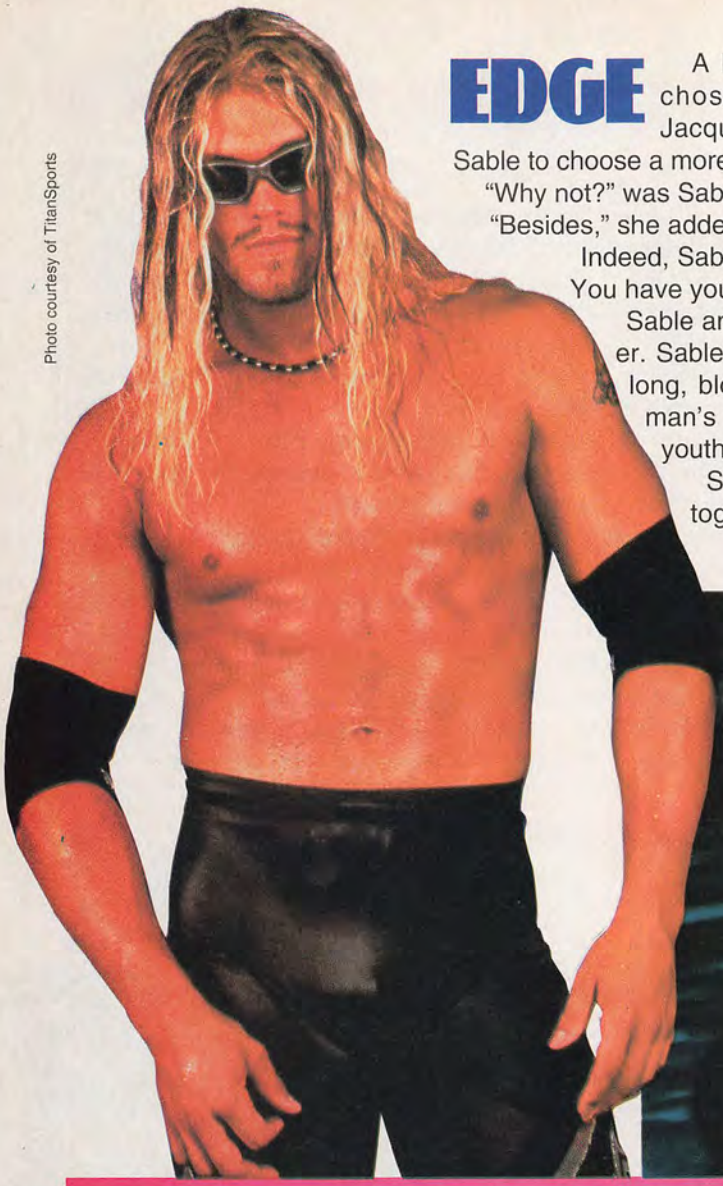


Photo courtesy of TitanSports

EDGE

A lot of people stood up and took notice when Sable chose Edge as her partner against Marc Mero and Jacquelyn at SummerSlam '98. Everybody had expected Sable to choose a more high-profile partner and wanted to know, "Why Edge?"

"Why not?" was Sable's simple answer.

"Besides," she added, "I knew it would make Marc jealous."

Indeed, Sable's message to Mero was clear: Turnabout is fair play. You have your new gorgeous babe. Now I have my hot new man.

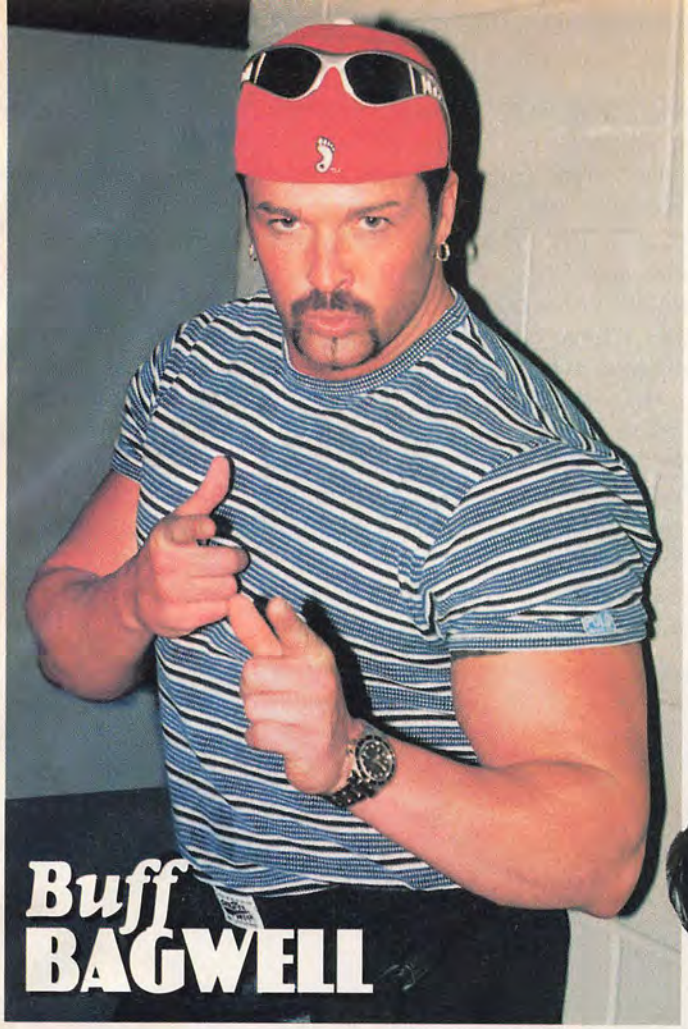
Sable and Edge aren't an item, but they do look perfect together. Sable's blonde hair would be well-complemented by Edge's long, blond locks. No split ends in those babies. He's a rich man's Chris Jericho, the typical scruffy-faced rock star with youthful good looks and a devil-may-care attitude.

Sable and Edge. Gotta admit, they did look good together.

tammy lynn SYTCH

Wrestling's very own sunshine girl could be wearing a bright pink bikini and frolicking on the beach, or donning her finest Chanel business suit and going head-to-head with wrestling's most powerful money men. Either way, she is completely comfortable. She is, in many ways, wrestling's Supergirl. In the bathing suit, the babe of male dreams. In the business suit, the power-hungry upward-mover who won't let anyone stand in her way.

Even when things aren't going right for Tammy Lynn Sytch—formerly Tammy Fytch, formerly Sunny—as they were in her recent association with LOD 2000, we know a change for the better must be just around the corner. We wonder how her relationship with Chris Candido has lasted so long, then snap to our senses and realize she is capable of judging people on her own and making her own decisions. She has fought through wrestling's male-dominated power system and is winning big-time. We know she'll keep on winning.



Buff BAGWELL

Buff Bagwell, formerly known as Marcus Alexander Bagwell, has never been secretive about his good looks. They've always been out there—way out there—and if a lot of female heads have turned, it's because he wanted it that way.

The four-time former WCW World tag team champion used to have a milquetoast persona, but now there's no doubting he's a bad boy. A naughty boy. The kind of guy your mother warned you about. Forbidden fruit. A big, strong, handsome man with huge muscles, a well-defined upper body, and a mind that always seems to be working in deceitful ways.

From his hair to his smile and poise, Bagwell is definitely the total package of male hunkdom. He's one of the best looking men in wrestling.

"Tell me something I don't know," Bagwell said when we told him of his place on our unusual Top 50 list. "Ain't it obvious?"

That it is.

Dawn MARIE

She is the anti-Sytch, battling with Lance Storm against Chris Candido and Tammy Lynn Sytch, invading male fantasies, giving the men of ECW arenas a choice. If you love Tammy, you can't love Dawn. If you love Dawn, you can't love Tammy. Make your decision. And, oh, what a decision it is!

Dawn Marie is so obvious. She is the woman your mother warned you about. She is the woman you would never bring home, unless your parents were away for the weekend. She is the woman who catches your eye while you're walking down the street with the woman you love. All natural, all loving, and ever dangerous.

Her dark brown hair delicately touches her shoulders and frames come-hither eyes that dare you to be nasty. As your eyes pan down her body, you expect to see a body that has been augmented, but it's all natural, just the way God gave it to her. Or was it the Devil? With Dawn Marie, you never know, but you'd love to find out.

Joey STYLES

The corporate *GQ* poster boy for ECW has a cute face and so much enthusiasm that sometimes it sounds as if his larynx is going to explode out of his nose. There's something about the company man that gets to women. Maybe it's the innate loyalty in such a man; you just know that once they take a vow, they mean it. And don't you know, for sure, that women are turned on by guys who wear glasses, as if when the glasses come off, the intellectual do-gooder becomes Superman? Or something like that.

The other fact of the matter is that in a federation known for reckless males who have had their faces and bodies battered, Styles is about the best thing going. He takes pride in caring for himself—a definite no-no in the man's man world of ECW—and presents a positive front for ECW. Joey's just ... cuddly ... loyal. There's just something about a guy named Joey.

Many women cried when Chavo Guerrero Jr. lost his hair at Bash at the Beach. But although he was pinned by his uncle Eddy, Chavo was hardly despondent. He grabbed an electric razor and sheered off his hair by himself. Then, when he returned to the locker room, he looked at himself in the mirror and declared, "I don't look half bad."

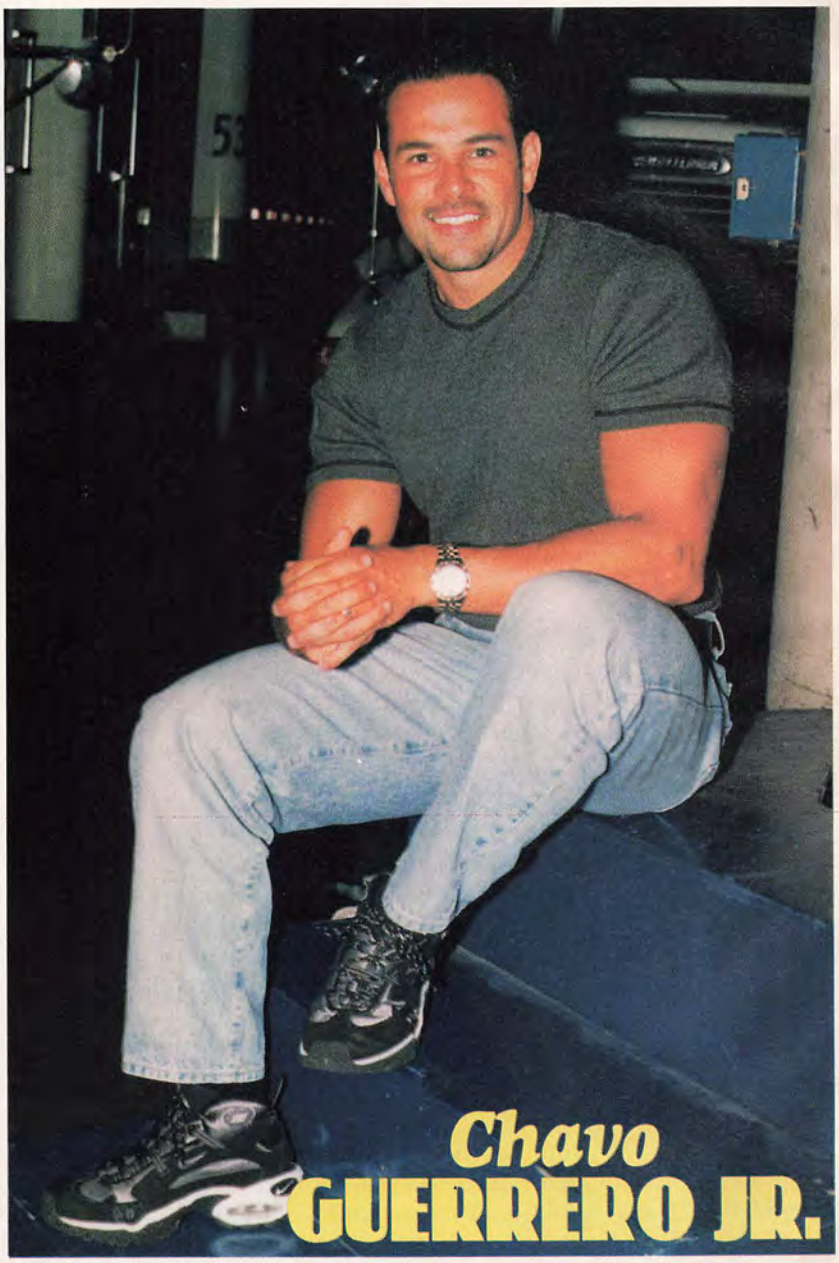
Strange one, this Chavo Guerrero Jr. He used to be such a nice guy. So normal. Then Eddy tried to toughen him up, but instead of getting tougher, Chavo got nuttier. Eddy wanted him to cheat. Chavo cheated. He broke every rule in the book. There wasn't a rule he would follow. He became a bad guy. A bad guy with a nutty attitude.

"He used to be so cute," pointed out WCW fan Nicole Alvarez.

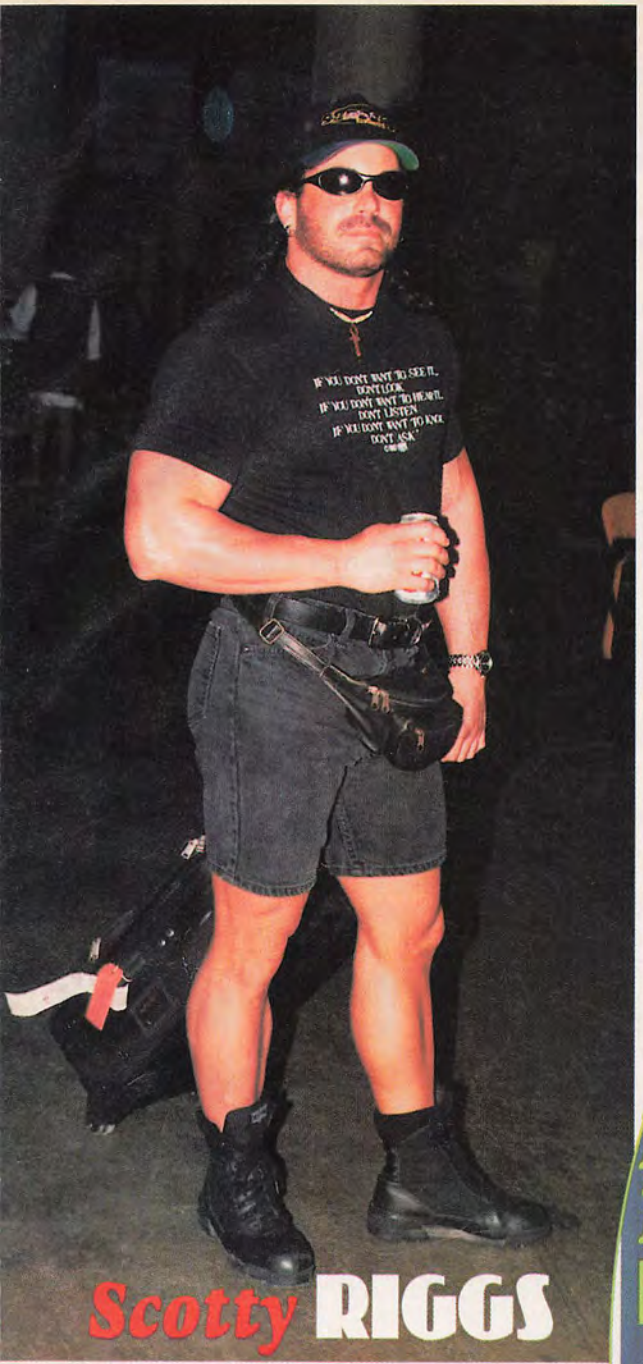
And now?

"Now he's like an outlaw," Ms. Alvarez said. "He's not cute anymore. He's sexy. Look at that little body of his. He finally looks like he knows how to use it."

Who knows? Who would dare to ask him? Hey, ladies, want a man like Chavo Guerrero Jr.? Visit your local prison.



Chavo GUERRERO JR.



Scotty RIGGS

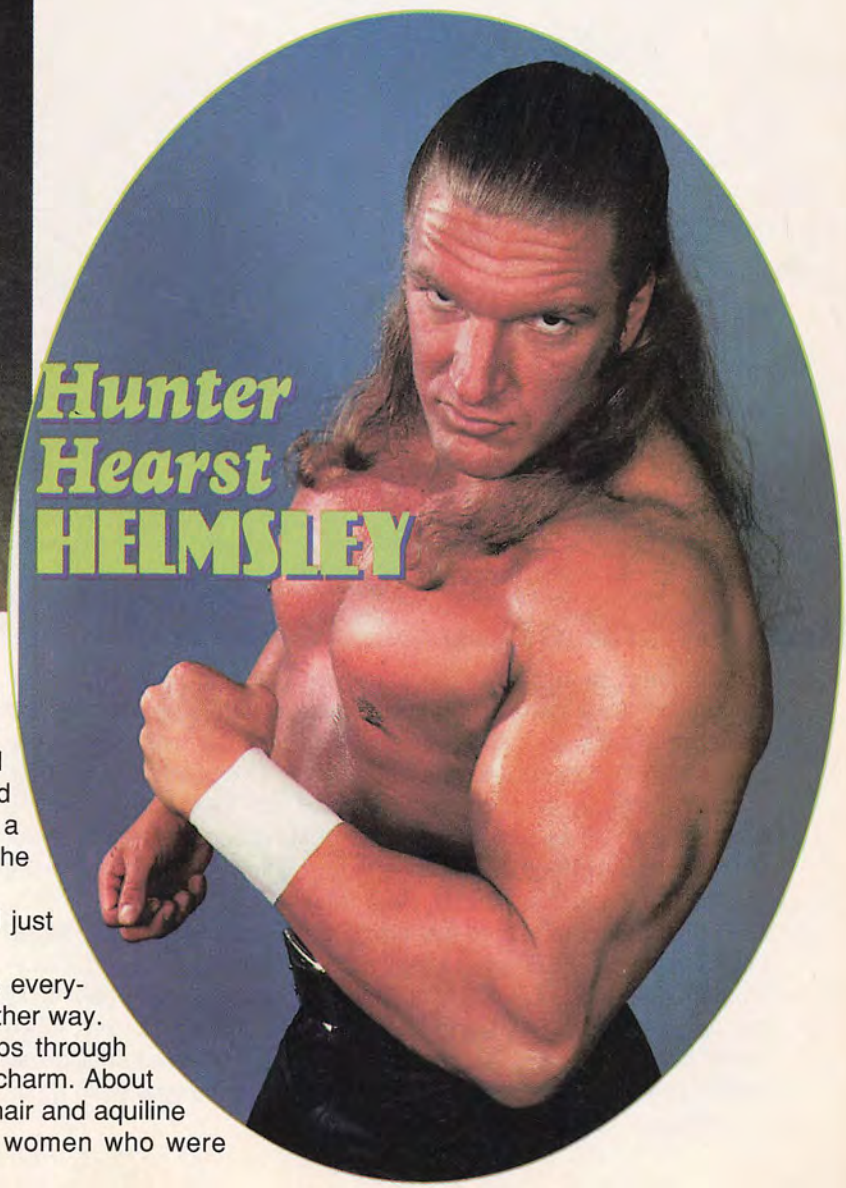
Scotty Riggs is living proof that you don't have to be a major star, or even a big-time winner, to make it onto our list of the 50 most beautiful people in wrestling. Over the past year, Riggs has lost more than his share of matches, but that has not stopped a loyal core of Riggs-watchers from looking forward to his every appearance in the ring.

Riggs is appealing in a rebel's way. He has long black hair, a goatee, and a patch over his eye. Riggs kind of looks like a pirate. He and Buff Bagwell once formed one of the most impressive-looking tag teams in history, The American Males. This American Male, also a former member of The Flock, has discovered independence. Women discovered him a long time ago.

About that patch over his eye ...

"It's a look," Riggs said. "A girlfriend of mine liked it, so I kept it."

There is nothing ordinary about Scotty Riggs. At least where his looks are concerned.

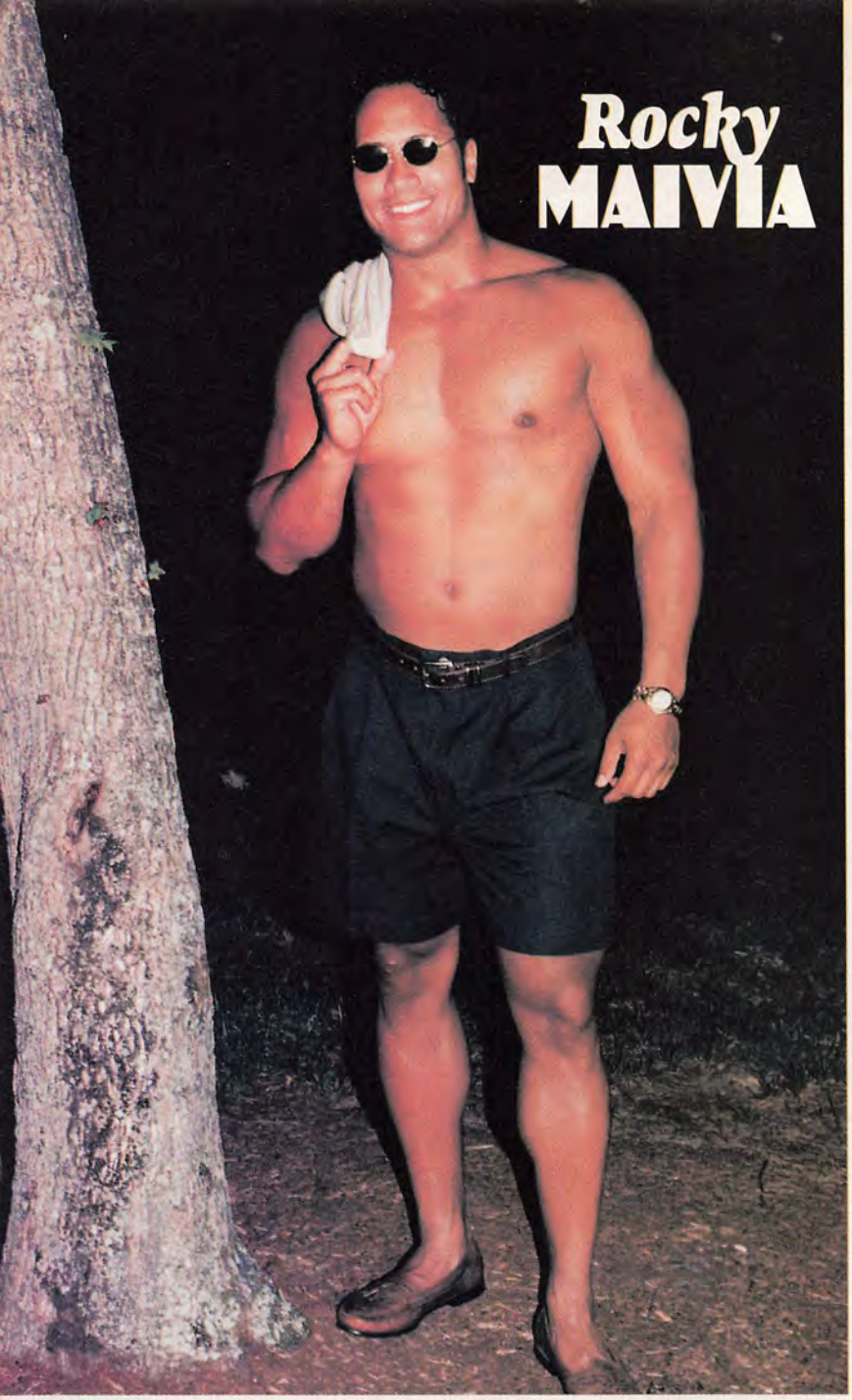


Hunter Hearst HELMSLEY

Hunter Hearst Helmsley once boasted that he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He didn't mind telling anyone all about it. He was a blue blood and damn proud of it. But during the last year we have seen a different side of "Triple-H." The wild side. The vulgar side.

But at least he learned to lighten up and just have fun.

Helmsley is the kind of guy who assumes everything will be all right, because he knows no other way. Completely self-assured, his cockiness seeps through every pore of his body. But that's part of his charm. About the money he was born with. His long blond hair and aquiline nose have at least partially distracted the women who were drawn to him by his bank account.



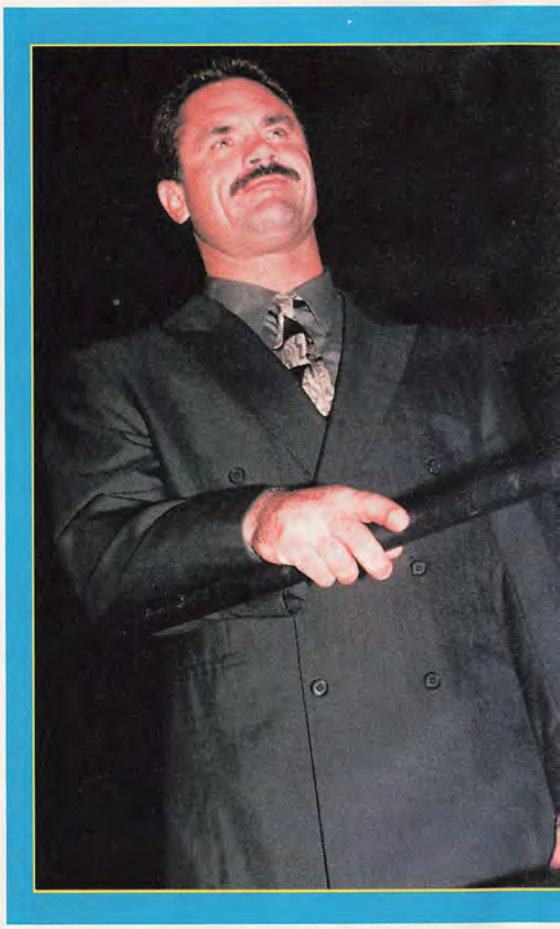
Love him or hate him, that's your only choice. Hate him because of the way he refers to himself in the third person as "The Rock" and talks as if the entire world revolves around his very being. Hate him because he had the nerve to challenge a woman, arch-rival Chyna, to a wrestling match, and saw nothing wrong with doing so. Hate him because he besmirched the reputation of the two generations that came before him: his father, Rocky Johnson, and his grandfather, Peter Maivia.

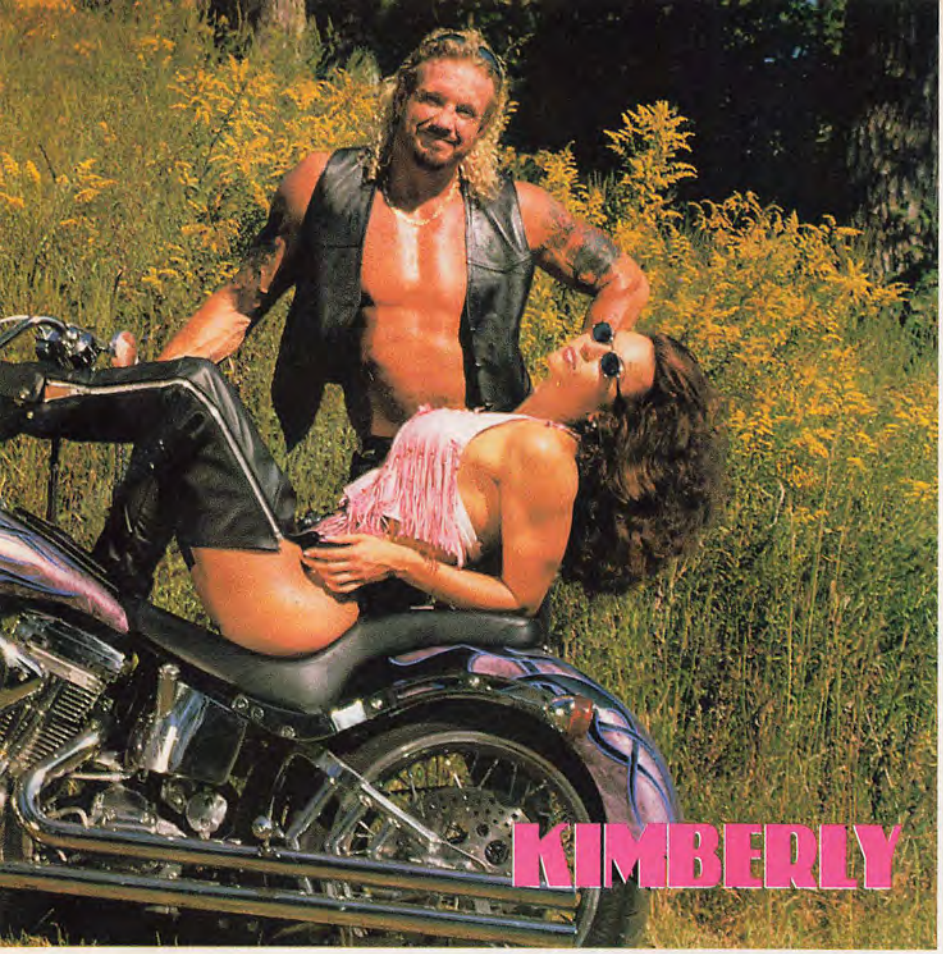
But he is so tempting to the female set. Rocky Maivia will tell you this himself: He's one of the best looking men in the sport. Silky-smooth skin. Deep brown eyes. Chiseled cheekbones. They're his best assets, and they're punctuated by a flick of the eyebrows, like a pelvic thrust, that drives women insane. The women at ringside so desperately want to scream out, "Rocky, let's do the time warp again … and again … and again!"

The amazing thing about Kimberly is that even after she posed for *Playboy's Nude Celebrities*, she retained her air of innocence. There she was, naked as a jaybird, yet you looked at her and said, "She's the kind of girl I could bring home to Mom and Dad." That is, if Dallas Page hadn't married her first.

And there's that other thing about Kimberly: She could have had any man she wanted, yet she chose a man who isn't startlingly handsome. Obviously, she chose him as much for what was inside as for what was outside. She knew Page was the kind of man who would stand up for her. When Randy Savage and Elizabeth tried to humiliate Kimberly, Page stepped up to the rescue.

Then again, what man wouldn't love to protect Kimberly? She's beautiful in a classic sense, with a perfect body, long legs, and the classic Miss America face. Best of all, she stands by her man, too.





One day, Val Venis might grow up and become Rick Rude. But for now, he is as suggestive and obvious as Rude used to be. Just as appealing, too. His sexuality oozes from his mouth every time he speaks. His gravelly bedroom voice drives women insane. It's hard to believe that for years he hid his curly golden locks under a mask as Steele in Mexico's EMLL. Nothing about Venis deserves to be hidden. And these days, nothing is. The planet, as well as the Roman goddess, are spelled V-E-N-U-S. Val chooses a slightly different variation.

Venis looks like the type of guy who wants to play in a naughty way. Then, when he's done playing, he'll tell the whole world about it in very vivid detail.

If you're looking for maturity, forget about it. If you're looking for a playmate, he's your Venis.

Rick RUDE

"Ravishing" Rick Rude is to Ric Flair what Tony Bennett was to Frank Sinatra. Not quite as stylish. Not quite as handsome. Not quite the female heartthrob, but an awfully handsome man in his own right. Rude has evolved from a young, boisterous twentysomething who wore tight tights decorated with paintings of women to a classically styled, well-dressed, suit-wearing gentleman who has tasted the good things in life. He is the bad boy who has matured, but not too much. There's still some little boy in him.

During his WWF days, Rude attracted a portion of the female crowd by doing suggestive dances in which he aggressively thrusted his pelvis. Then he'd invite a female fan into the ring for a public makeout session. The WCW Rude doesn't do those kinds of things. He keeps his private life private. He realizes the way something is wrapped can be as intriguing as what it's covering: a tight, thin body with a washboard stomach. One thing about Rude hasn't changed: He's no stranger to the workout room.

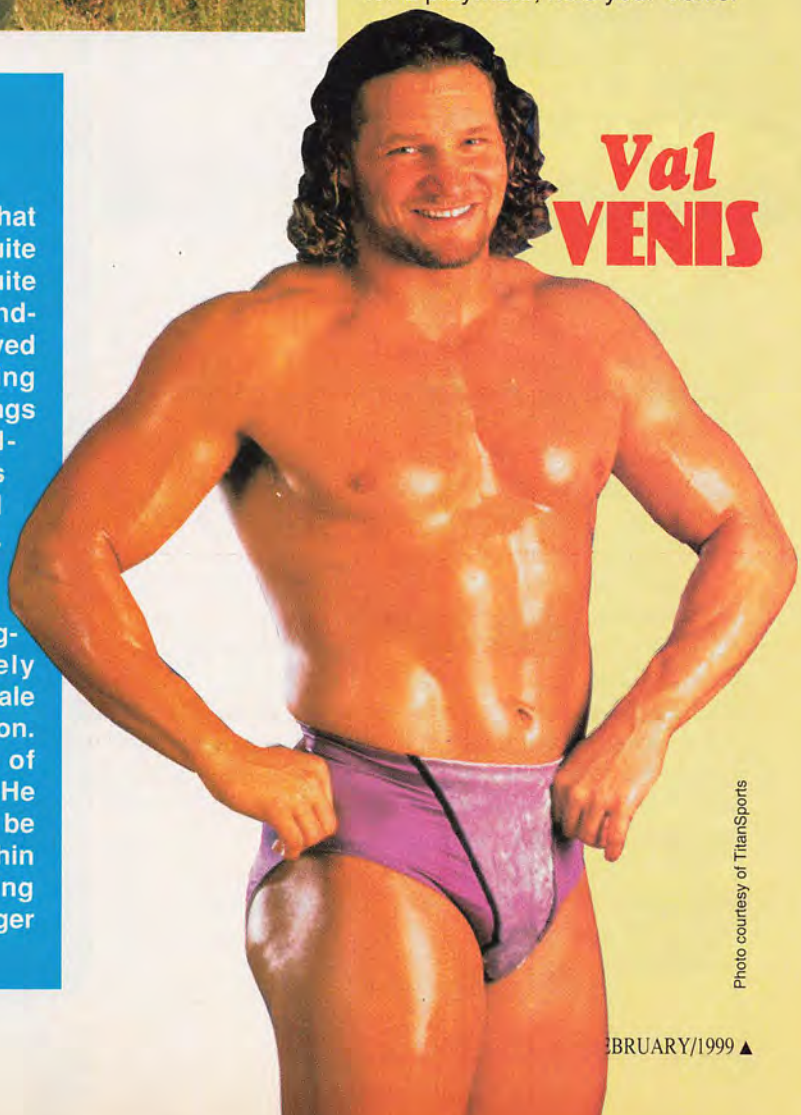
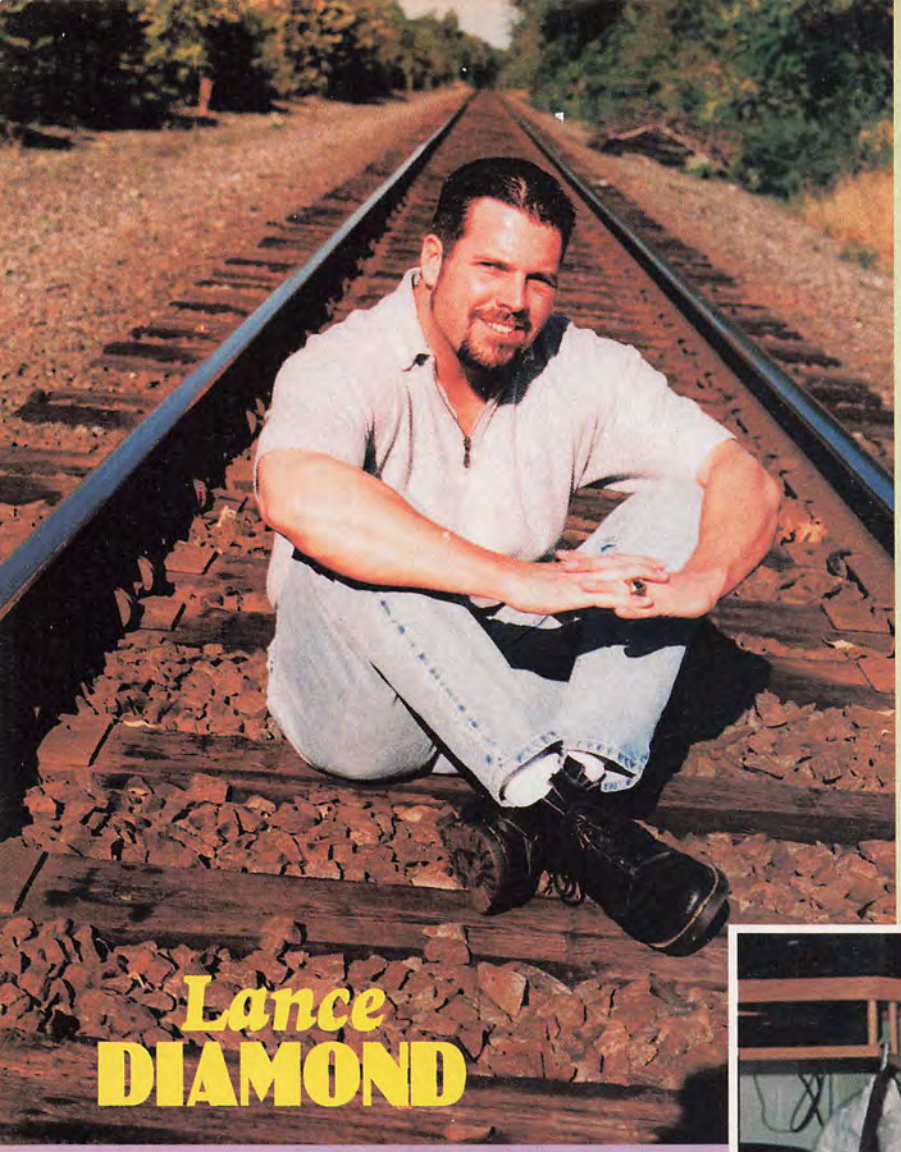


Photo courtesy of TitanSports



Lance DIAMOND

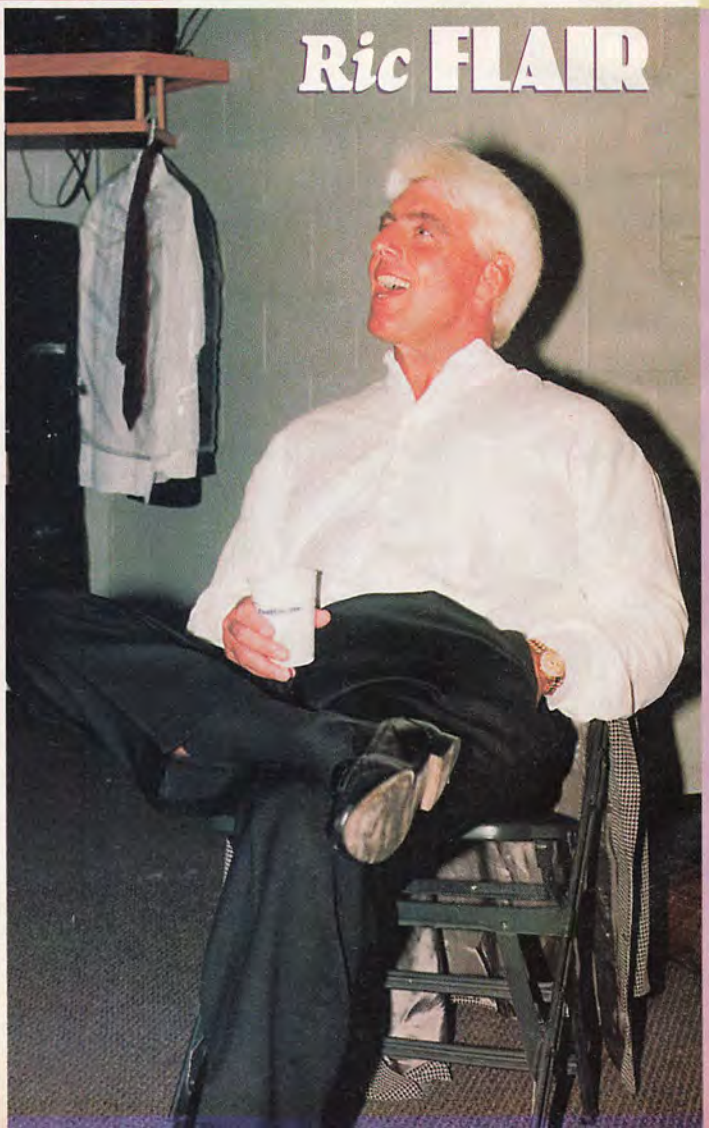
Lance Diamond is a throwback. He doesn't look like today's sex symbol. You know the type. Male variety: bleached blond mop, a day's growth of beard, baggy blue jeans, white T-shirt. That look and Lance Diamond just don't go together.

"I'm a classic," Diamond boasted. "I'm a real gem. Like a diamond, only more valuable."

Kind of cocky, too. Kind of like ... Gino Hernandez, the late Texas wrestling great. Diamond isn't exactly Hernandez come back to life, but if you found a way to mix Diamond and Tully Blanchard in a blender without tearing their guts apart, you'd end up with Lance. He's the 1980s type. Tall, dark, and handsome. His best feature is his amazing blue eyes, which sparkle with a twinge of deviousness. Outspoken. Supremely confident.

"I love the way his mouth moves," said NWA fan Jennifer Crowe.

As if it ever stops.



Ric FLAIR

The nickname, "Nature Boy," doesn't quite seem to fit anymore. He is far from the age at which he can be considered a boy, and the whole "nature" thing goes against what he is: a sophisticated, self-assured, worldly man who has all the material things he could ever want, but is comfortable with himself as a person, too. Ric Flair has reached the point in his life at which he can do whatever he chooses to do. He chooses to wrestle, and the sport is better for it.

Much has changed since 1972, when the rookie Ric Flair didn't have much sense of style. He has evolved into the best-dressed man in wrestling; his suits are impeccably tailored and traditional in style. He doesn't wear bright colored suits like so many young athletes. He dresses like a businessman. The long blond locks have been cut to a more conservative length, and the cars he drives are not flashy, but classic. Like the man, who's a classic, too.

He is to wrestling what Frank Sinatra was to music, what John F. Kennedy was to politics, what Cal Ripken Jr. has become to baseball. The standard-bearer. Pure class.

THE 7 BEST REASONS TO WATCH MONDAY WRESTLING!

Tygress
Whisper
THE NITRO GIRLS

PRO
Wrestling
ILLUSTRATED
Spice
Kimberly
Fyre
Chae
A.C.
Jazz
WCW
MONDAY
NITRO

SPICE

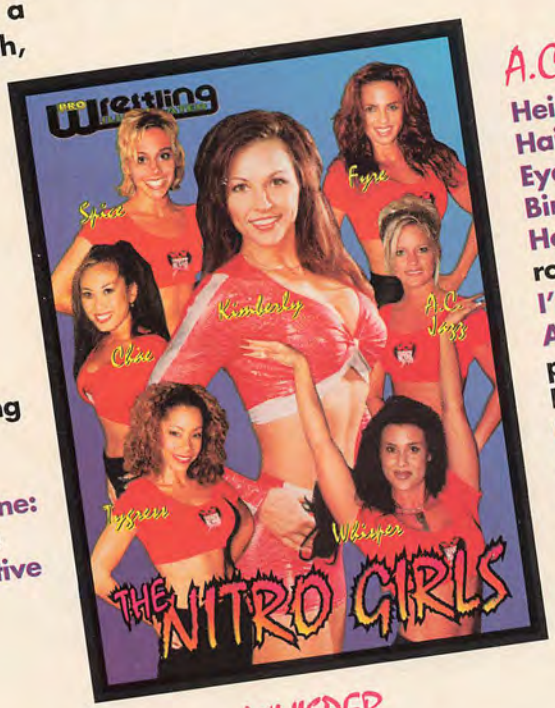
Height: 5'4"
Hair Color: Cinnamon blonde
Eye Color: Brown
Birthplace: Meadville, PA
Hobbies: Dancing, hiking, enjoying nature (especially at the ocean and in the mountains), working out, and spending time with my husband and our three pets
I'm Better At This Than Anyone: Going in a million different directions at once
I Find These Qualities Attractive In A Man: Wit, a kind heart, confidence, a great personality, and, oh, yes, a great butt!

KIMBERLY

Height: 5'10"
Hair Color: Chestnut
Eye Color: Brown
Birthplace: Chicago, IL
Hobbies: Interior design, Web surfing, horseback riding, motorcycles, snow skiing, dancing
I'm Better At This Than Anyone: Organizing (and taking care of DDP!)
I Find These Qualities Attractive In A Man: Good sense of humor, intelligence, confidence, and a "can do" attitude

FYRE

Height: 5'3"
Hair Color: Red
Eye Color: Green
Birthplace: Pensacola, FL
Hobbies: Jogging with my Dalmatian, shopping, reading, working in my yard, decorating my house, exercising
I'm Better At This Than Anyone: Maintaining my self-discipline and persevering
I Find These Qualities Attractive In A Man: High integrity, good moral character, and a great sense of humor



A.C. JAZZ

Height: 5'6"
Hair Color: Blonde
Eye Color: Blue
Birthplace: Atlanta, GA
Hobbies: Watersports, rollerblading, and skiing
I'm Better At This Than Anyone: Keeping a positive attitude while I'm on the road
I Find These Qualities Attractive In A Man: He should be classy, have a great personality, and have a big heart

CHAE

Height: 5'4"
Hair Color: Dark brown
Eye Color: Brown
Birthplace: Seoul, Korea
Hobbies: Riding my two horses (Patsy Paint and Smooch), snowboarding, riding my Harley, and working out
I'm Better At This Than Anyone: Taking care of the one I love
I Find These Qualities Attractive In A Man: I like a man who's genuine, intelligent, and open-minded

TYGRESS

Height: 5'3 1/2"
Hair Color: Auburn
Eye Color: Brown
Birthplace: Syosset, NY
Hobbies: Billiards, weightlifting, and running
I'm Better At This Than Anyone: Controlling my emotions
I Find These Qualities Attractive In A Man: He must be a genuinely nice guy who's happy, confident, and at peace with himself, and he must know himself

WHISPER

Height: 5'10"
Hair Color: Dark brown
Eye Color: Hazel-green
Birthplace: Tampa, FL
Hobbies: Horseback riding, crafts, cooking, working on the computer, volleyball, and fishing
I'm Better At This Than Anyone: Being considerate and not judging others too quickly
I Find These Qualities Attractive In A Man: I like a man who's sincere and strong (not just physically). He can be sexy but silly, too, and honest, monogamous, and have strong family values

this month in...

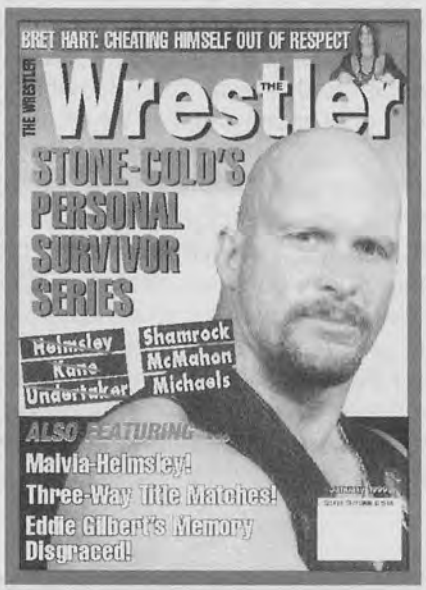
Inside Wrestling

WARNING TO UNDERTAKER & KANE:
Now That You're Together, Stay Apart!
Inside Wrestling
INSIDE WRESTLING
Seasons Greetings With A Bang!
OUR HOLIDAY WISH LIST FOR THE STARS!
• Severn & Shamrock: Caught In Vicious Circle (Or Octagon!)
• How Konnan Became Cool-Cool-Cool!
• Arn Anderson On The Horsemen Reunion

The winter holidays are upon us and everyone is in the mood for giving gifts, including us! We'll present to you our holiday wish list. We're giving some special gifts to your favorite stars! … **KONNAN** was basically an afterthought in WCW, what, two years ago? Now everywhere he goes, people love him. Is it just because he's a member of **NWO WOLFPAC**? We think there's more to it than that … You may not like them, but you have to admit that it's nice that **KANE** and **THE UNDERTAKER** have made their peace. Now that they're together, though, read why we think they should stay apart!

All this—and much more!—
in the January 1999 issue of
Inside Wrestling

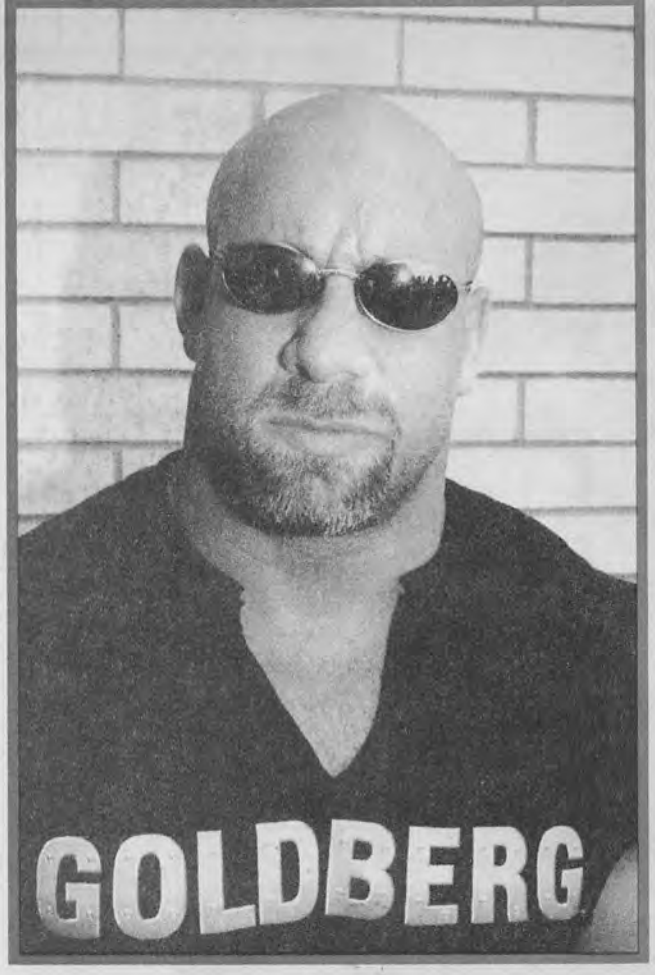
The Wrestler



HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY. KANE. THE UNDERTAKER. They've all succumbed to **STEVE AUSTIN** since he first became WWF champ. And he tore through men like **OWEN HART** and **ROCKY MAIVIA** *before* he was champ. So who's left in "Stone-Cold's" personal survivor series? **KEN SHAMROCK**, a healthy **SHAWN MICHAELS**—and what about **VINCE McMAHON**? … **BRET HART** craves respect. Always has, always will. From his friends, his enemies, and the fans. The questions is, is it too late for him to regain that respect? … We'll explain to you exactly why three-way title matches just don't make sense!

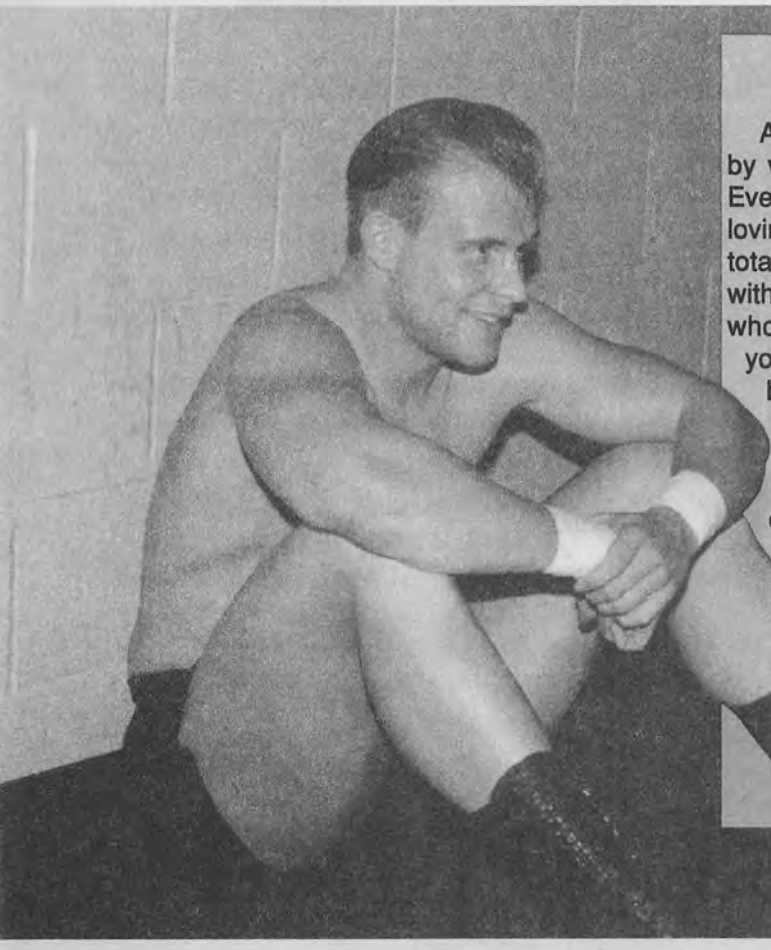
All this—and much more!—
in the January 1999 issue of
The Wrestler

Bill GOLDBERG



The WCW World champion and sure-thing Rookie of the Year is, in appearance, so much like Steve Austin that sometimes you have to wonder whether Goldberg saw what was working for "Stone-Cold" and decided it would work for him, too. Imitation surely is the sincerest form of flattery, but it's also the surest way to make the imitator look stupid. If there wasn't something special and unique about Goldberg, then all he'd be is a poor man's Austin. Which is exactly what he isn't.

There is, of course, the formidable former football player's body—huge and thoroughly covered with muscle—and the bald pate. What sets them apart, however, is that Austin communicates through words and sayings, Goldberg communicates through actions, with his eyes, and with a scowl that could scare off even the most battle-hardened rival. His tough guy look lacks the drama of Austin's persona, but his silent but deadly attitude keeps everyone wondering, *What's he going to do next?*



Alex WRIGHT

Alex Wright danced into WCW about four years ago by way of Berlin, Germany, and everybody laughed. Everybody over the age of 16, that is. Wright, the fun-loving dancing boy with the ever-present smile and the total lack of self-consciousness, was an immediate hit with the under-14 girl crowd. You know, the kind of girls who buy *Teen Beat* and swoon over the Hansons. If you've ever swooned over the Hansons, you've probably swooned over Alex Wright. On the other hand, if The Backstreet Boys are more your speed, you've outlived your interest in Alex.

Good thing for Wright that he has found his kindred spirit, the disco-dancing Disco Inferno. The two have formed an effective tag team, although we're not sure if that's because they're talented, or because their opponents are laughing so hard.

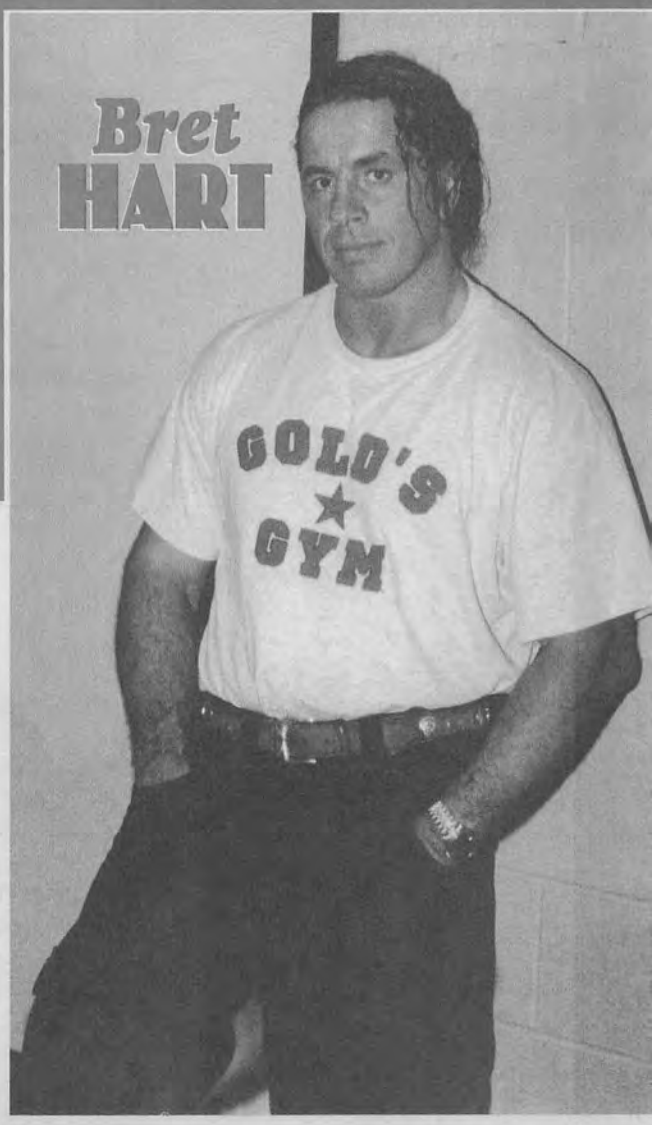
Over in Berlin, Alex informed us, disco fever is still pretty hot, and you can find nightclubs that look eerily like the Club 2001 of *Saturday Night Fever* fame. Back home, Alex is a hit with just about everybody.

CHYNA

There are men who work their schedules around ESPN2's broadcasts of the Fitness America Pageant and hang out at female bodybuilding competitions. They are female muscle groupies, excited by the sight of a woman with a muscular body. Wrestling never had anybody for them until Chyna came along.

She intimidates many men. She's either too tall or too strong, and how many men have enough self-confidence to date a woman who can bench press more than them or beat them at arm-wrestling? To many men, she is obscenely muscular. She has advanced to a level far beyond well-toned.

But there are others who look into her dark brown eyes, gaze over her incredible body, and see a strong woman who takes care of herself and doesn't need a man watching over her all the time. Chyna has developed her body to its peak. She is a strong woman, not only for strong men, but for herself.



When something is going wrong in Bret Hart's life, the first people he calls are his wife, Julie, his mother, Helen, and his father, Stu, back home in Calgary, Alberta. Same thing when something is going right. Family means everything to the "Hitman." Not money. Not fame. Not titles.

Hart is a five-time former WWF World champion. He is one of the richest men in wrestling, a superstar whose success has been equaled by only a few. But it's his sense of values that makes him one of wrestling's most beautiful people. The kindness in his eyes, the long, flowing locks of a kid, that desperate look he gets when a match is at its turning point. He is reaching deep inside for something his mother or father taught him, something he learned back in Calgary, something that has brought his life together, into one cogent piece. Bret Hart has it all, yet only one thing really matters.

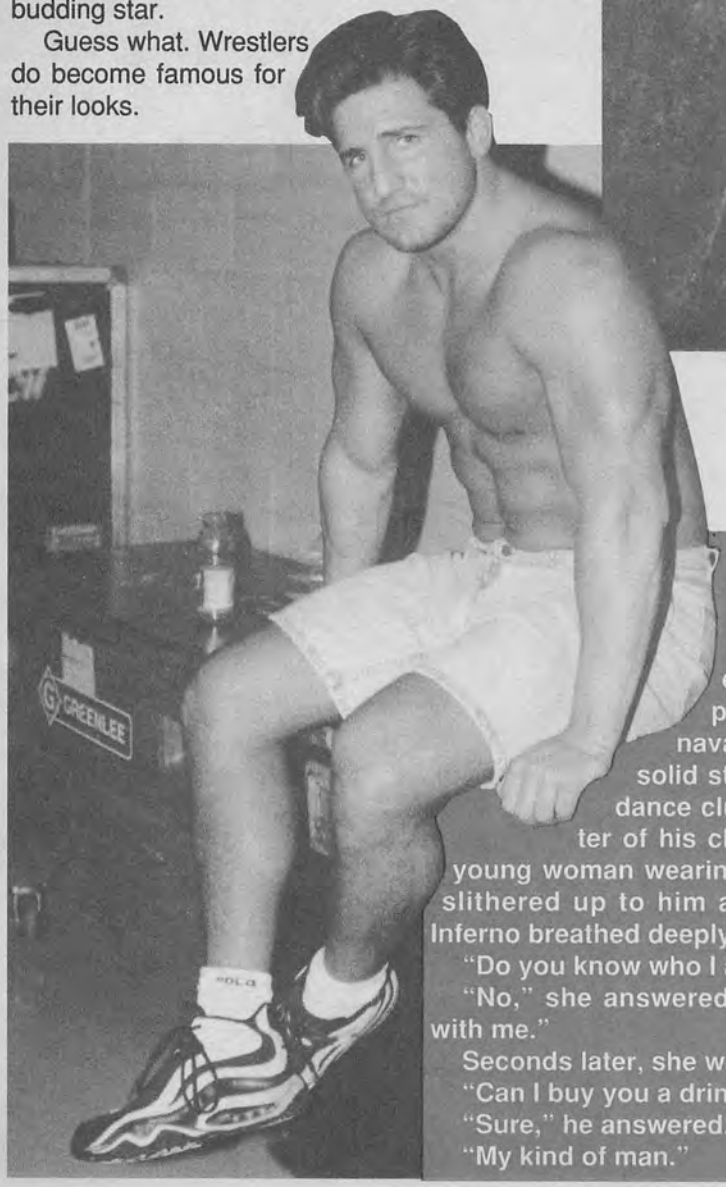
Just in case you missed it—and the chances are 999 in 1,000 that you did—back in September, Atlas Rivera defeated Alexei Taktarov for the Grande Wrestling Alliance Intercontinental championship.

What, you never heard of the Grande Wrestling Alliance? Never heard of Alexei Taktarov? (He's Russian, in case you couldn't guess). Never even heard of Atlas Rivera?

Well, like people say, that's why they put pictures in magazines. That's why Senior Editor Bill Apter has a job. That's why TV is so much more popular than radio.

Stare at the picture for a minute. Go ahead. Nobody's watching you. Check out the hot body of this Latino independent wrestler. Nice muscles. Good definition. Flawless skin. Compact at 5'8". Cute face. Just a touch of a beard, enough to add to his appeal. If wrestlers became famous for their looks, Atlas Rivera would be a budding star.

Guess what. Wrestlers do become famous for their looks.



Disco INFERNO

With the moves of John Travolta and the attitude of Al Pacino, Disco Inferno bounded on the dance floor of a downtown Atlanta nightclub and within seconds was surrounded by the five most beautiful women in the place. His polyester shirt was open to the naval, exposing a muscular chest and a smooth, solid stomach. As he moved smoothly under the hot dance club lights, a trickle of sweat ran down the center of his chest and settled in a pool above his navel. A young woman wearing tight shorts, a halter top, and stiletto heels slithered up to him and put her hands across his chest. Disco Inferno breathed deeply, smiled, then spun the woman into his arms.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked her.

"No," she answered breathlessly. "And I don't care. Just move with me."

Seconds later, she was tailing him back to the bar.

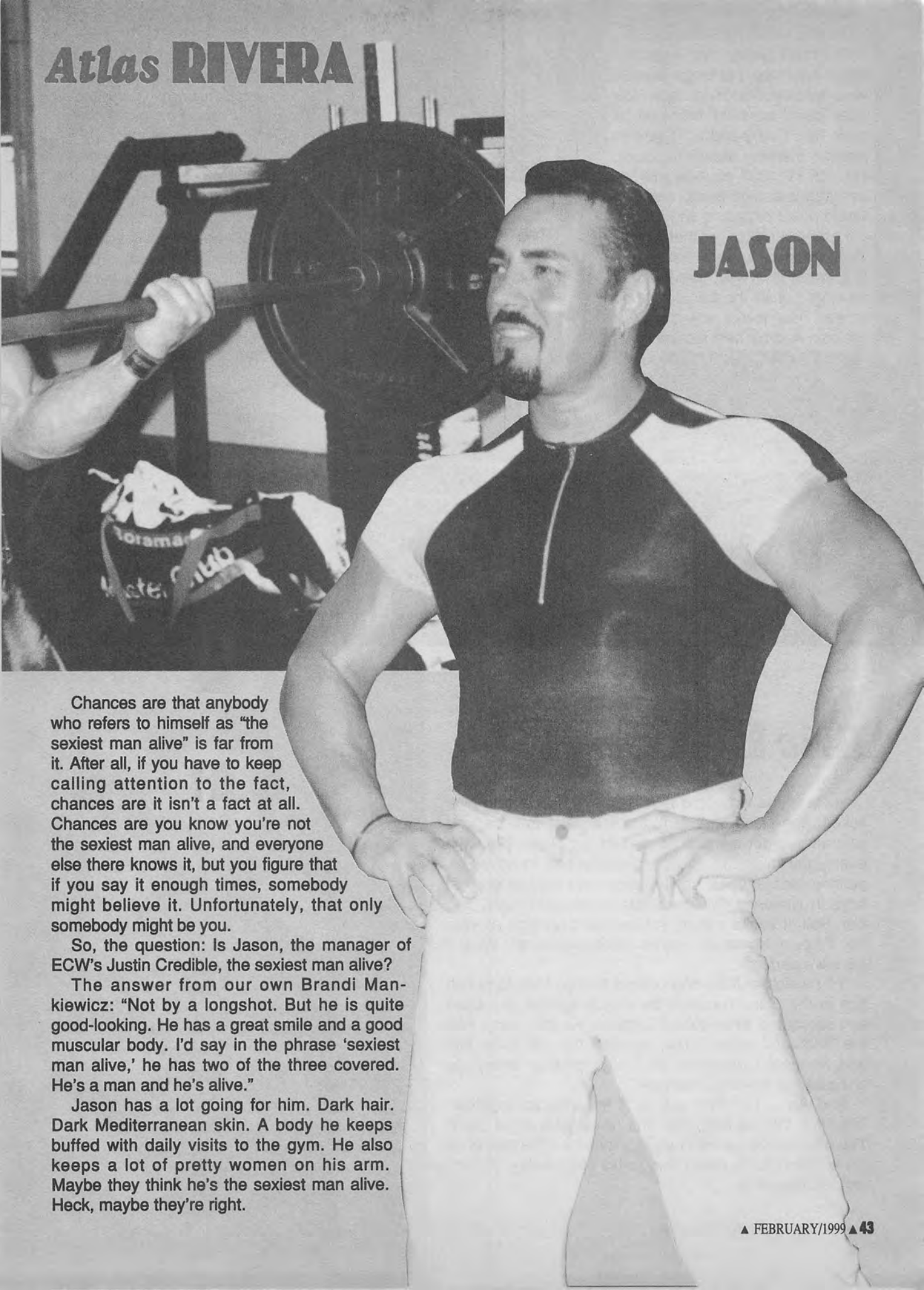
"Can I buy you a drink?" she asked.

"Sure," he answered. "Seven and seven."

"My kind of man."

Atlas RIVERA

JASON

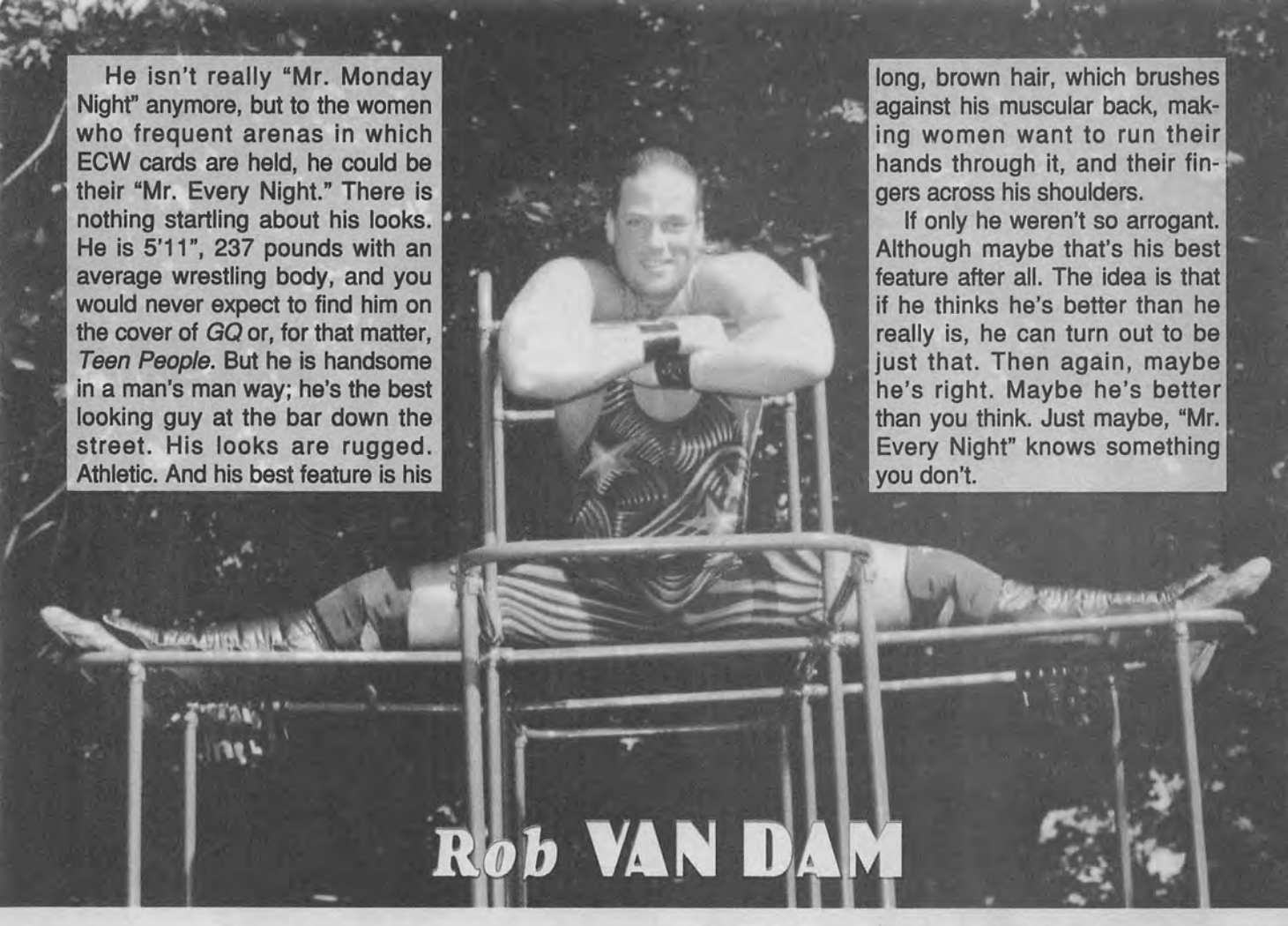


Chances are that anybody who refers to himself as "the sexiest man alive" is far from it. After all, if you have to keep calling attention to the fact, chances are it isn't a fact at all. Chances are you know you're not the sexiest man alive, and everyone else there knows it, but you figure that if you say it enough times, somebody might believe it. Unfortunately, that only somebody might be you.

So, the question: Is Jason, the manager of ECW's Justin Credible, the sexiest man alive?

The answer from our own Brandi Mankiewicz: "Not by a longshot. But he is quite good-looking. He has a great smile and a good muscular body. I'd say in the phrase 'sexiest man alive,' he has two of the three covered. He's a man and he's alive."

Jason has a lot going for him. Dark hair. Dark Mediterranean skin. A body he keeps buffed with daily visits to the gym. He also keeps a lot of pretty women on his arm. Maybe they think he's the sexiest man alive. Heck, maybe they're right.

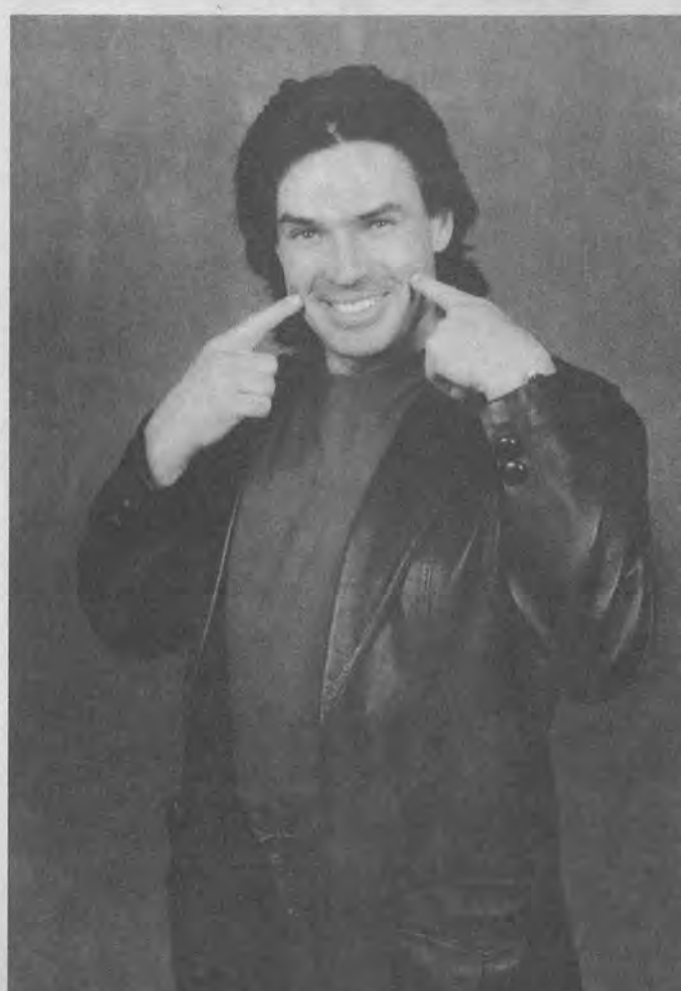


He isn't really "Mr. Monday Night" anymore, but to the women who frequent arenas in which ECW cards are held, he could be their "Mr. Every Night." There is nothing startling about his looks. He is 5'11", 237 pounds with an average wrestling body, and you would never expect to find him on the cover of *GQ* or, for that matter, *Teen People*. But he is handsome in a man's man way; he's the best looking guy at the bar down the street. His looks are rugged. Athletic. And his best feature is his long, brown hair, which brushes against his muscular back, making women want to run their hands through it, and their fingers across his shoulders.

If only he weren't so arrogant. Although maybe that's his best feature after all. The idea is that if he thinks he's better than he really is, he can turn out to be just that. Then again, maybe he's right. Maybe he's better than you think. Just maybe, "Mr. Every Night" knows something you don't.

Rob VAN DAM

Eric BISCHOFF

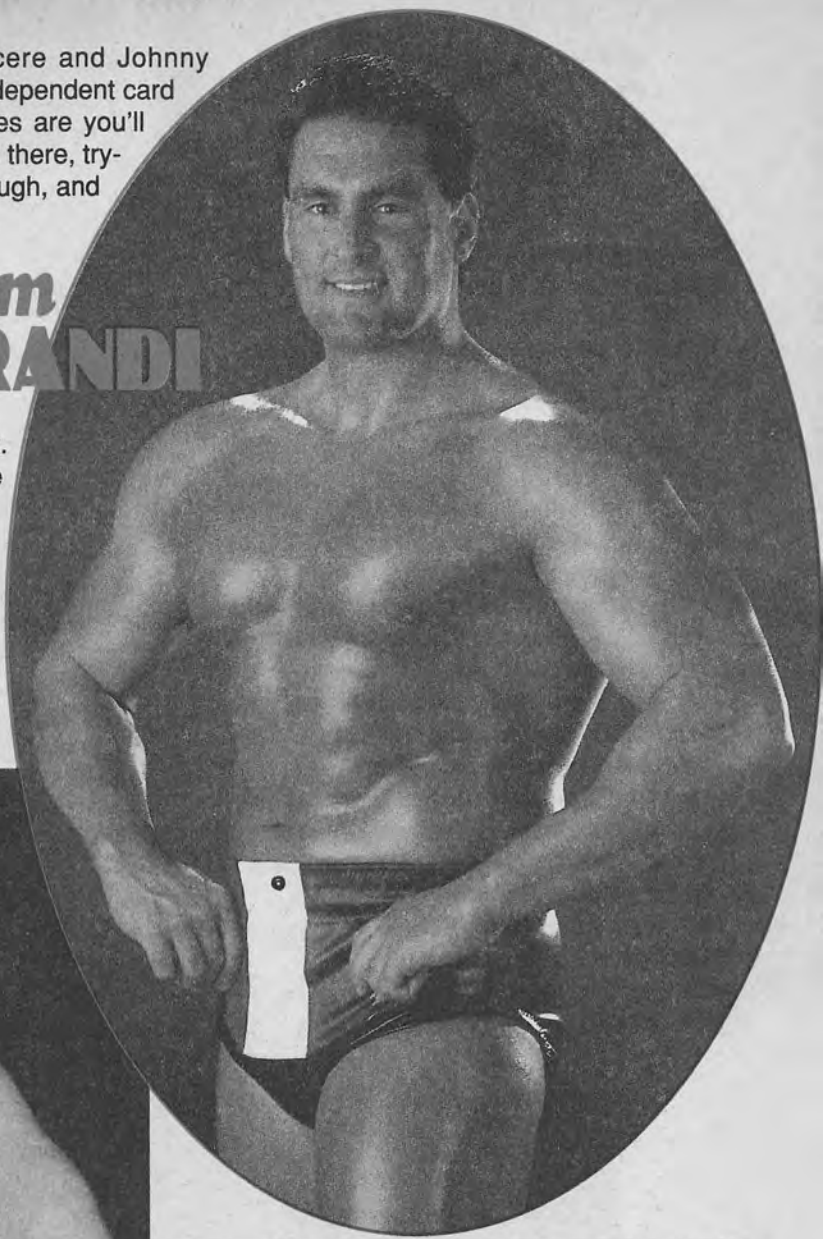


He was the kid voted most likely to succeed in high school, the class president, the teacher's pet, the one who always got the girl. So perfect, so plastic-like, with every hair in place, every move planned in advance, nothing spontaneous, no surprises. Like the bad guy frat boys in *Revenge Of The Nerds* or *Animal House*. The Ken Doll. If you're a man, you've hated his type all your life. If you're a woman, you've surely wondered, *What if life were perfect?*

You watched *Nitro* and prayed for Ric Flair to punch him in the chin. You saw the match against Jay Leno and screamed when Kevin Eubanks put him away with the "Diamond cutter." You watched his talk show bits and wondered what was so funny. He's so cocky, so arrogant, so downright hatable.

And yet ... he really seems to have his act together. The hair. The perfect skin. The reasonably good body. The way he speaks. His Ken Doll looks are the butt of so many jokes, but in reality they're his best quality. So perfect it's disgusting.

Tom BRANDI



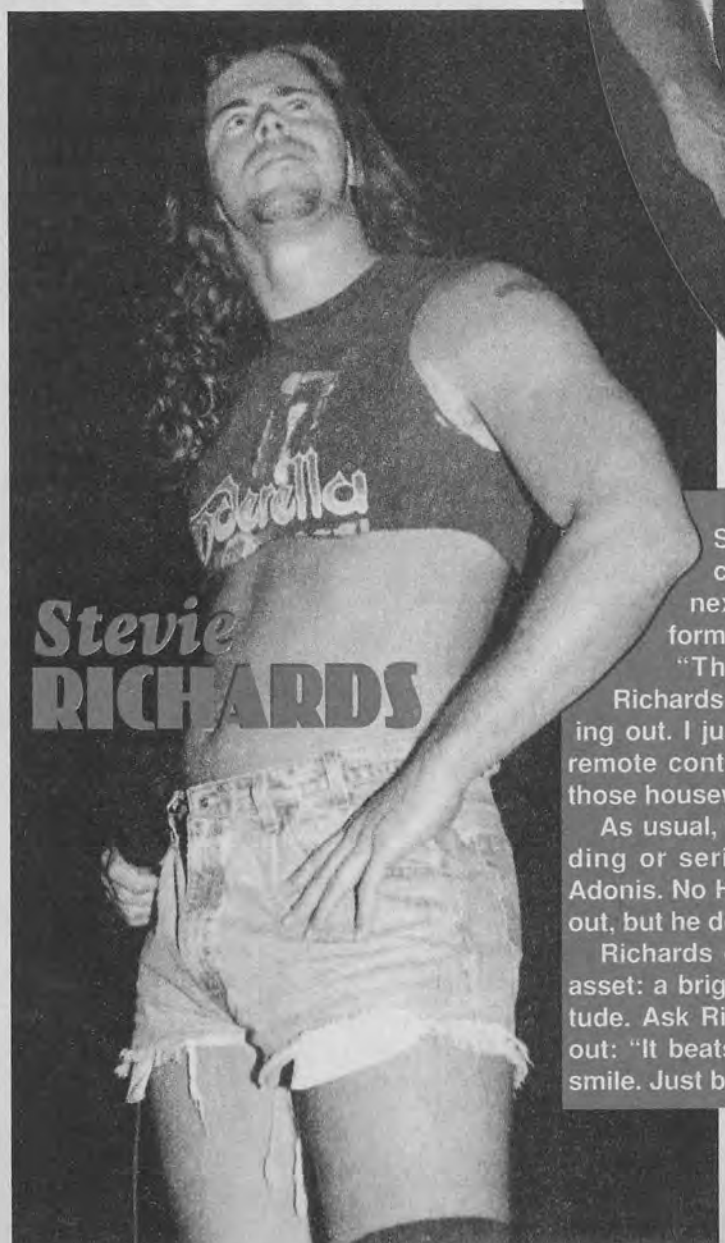
Tom Brandi, formerly known as Sal Sincere and Johnny Gunn, works hard for his dollar. If there's an independent card happening anywhere in the Northeast, chances are you'll find Brandi on it, picking up a few bills here and there, trying to make a name for himself in the rough, tough, and often punishing world of professional wrestling.

The thing is, for all his hard work, Brandi is best known for something he has only partial control over: his God-given good looks. Brandi was blessed with a great, muscular body that he keeps in tip-top shape through a rigorous workout program and a strict diet. The face is what first attracted Sable when she split with Mero.

"He's a good-looking guy," Sable understated. "And he cares about himself. The man has a lot of self-respect and a great attitude. He doesn't need anybody to tell him he's good."

Brandi's confidence shines through. Every night. All over the East Coast. In whatever arena he might be.

Stevie RICHARDS



Back in the ring after having broken his neck, Stevie Richards is touring the independent circuit. You'll find him one night in Baltimore, the next night clowning around with Tod Gordon's former-ECW group that's invading the NWA.

"The best thing about breaking my neck," Richards crowed, "is that I had an excuse for not working out. I just laid on my back for a few months with the remote control and two-liter bottles of Pepsi. You know, those housewives really have the life."

As usual, it's impossible to tell whether Richards is kidding or serious. This much is certain: Richards is no Adonis. No Hercules. He doesn't spend much time working out, but he does spend a lot of time on his hair.

Richards doesn't have to spend any time on his finest asset: a bright, lively smile that reveals his fun-loving attitude. Ask Richards why he wrestles and he'll tell you flat out: "It beats working for a living." Such honesty, such a smile. Just beautiful.

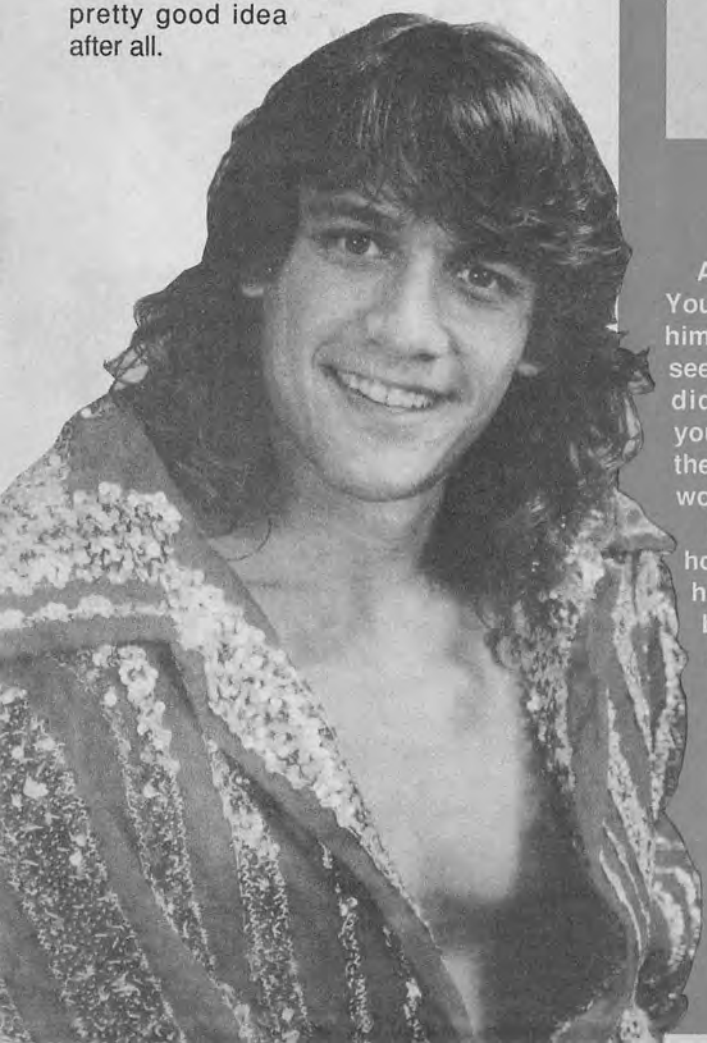
Colorado KID

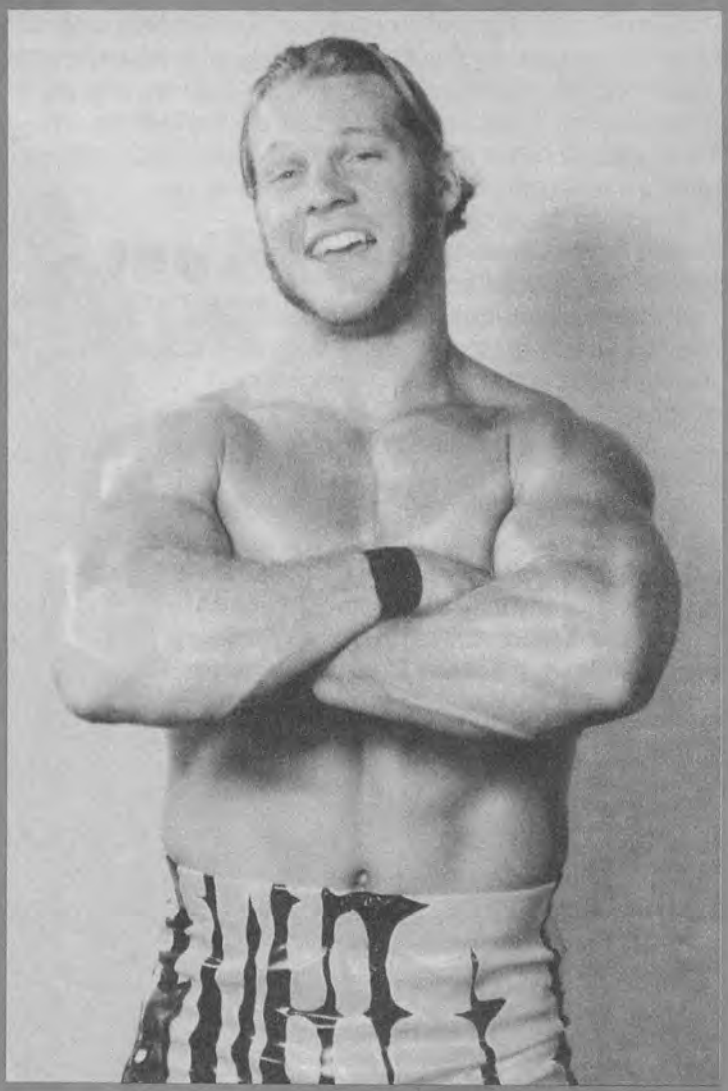
Colorado Kid's first claim to fame came when he defeated Jerry Lawler for the USWA heavyweight title. Just in case you didn't notice, the ring was packed that night with Top 50 sex symbols: Lawler for the middle-aged set, Colorado Kid for the younger set.

There's a certain down-home appeal to Colorado Kid. He's the kind of young man you might see in your local convenience store, say 7-Eleven or Circle K. You're browsing through the magazine rack, maybe deciding whether to buy the Rold Gold pretzel rods or the Fritos for the rest of your 100-mile drive to Nashville. Much to your dismay, the Slurpee machine has broken down, and there's this big guy blocking the soda cooler.

But then you look a little closer. The big guy isn't bad looking. Long, flowing black hair. A striking nose. A real nice face. He's handsome. His body isn't spectacular, but it fits pretty nicely into a pair of Wranglers.

You look again. You decide that maybe this rest stop was a pretty good idea after all.





Chris JERICHO

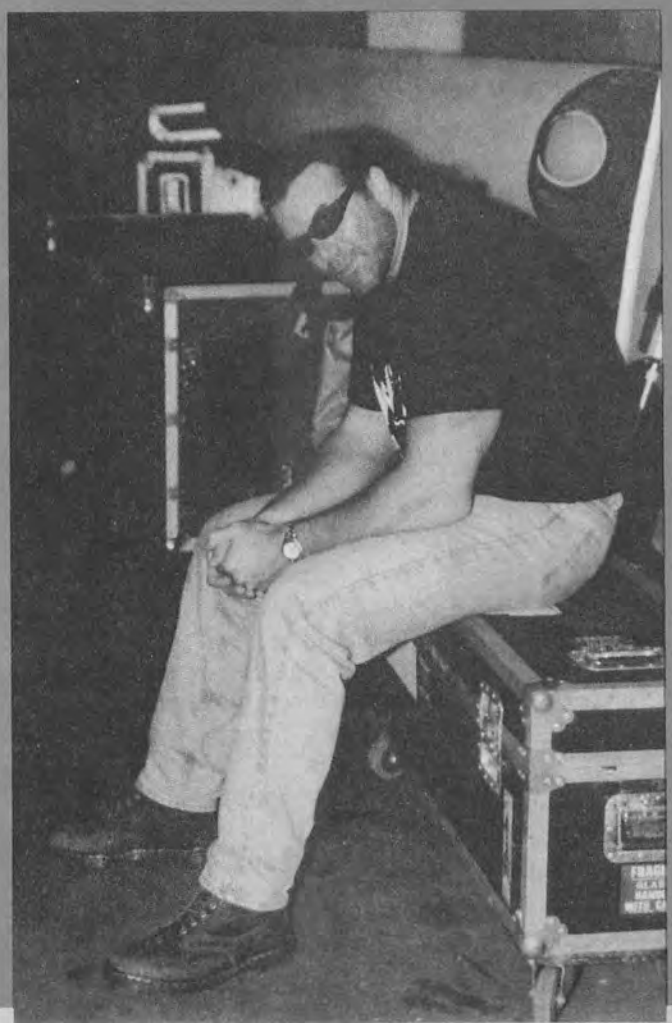
Any Jerichoholics out there? C'mon, admit it, ladies. You know you've looked. You know you've tried to hate him because of that pompous attitude. Has the man ever seen a mirror he didn't like? Or, come to think of it, that didn't like him? As Suzanne Somers once said, if you've got it, bump it with a trumpet. Jericho looks into the mirror each morning and says, "I think I'll grace the world with my presence."

Men hate Jericho, and when they tell their girlfriends how much they hate Jericho, their girlfriends nod their heads and agree, "Yeah, he's a real jerk." Then the boyfriend, catching the glint in his girlfriend's eyes, asks, "You don't think he's handsome, do you?" And she lies, "Of course not," although in her mind's eye, she can see that great, buff body, the long blond hair, the cheesy smile, and the cocky walk. She can see it, even though she's trying not to, and she knows that later on, when the lights go out, she'll have no control over whether the scene will play through her mind again. After all, what's a girl to do?

Scott HALL

Scott Hall reminds us of a certain kid in high school. You know the one. The real loser with the slicked-back hair who stood on the street corner wearing a leather jacket and had a toothpick hanging out of his mouth. You knew he was going nowhere fast, but he thought he was cool, his loser friends thought he was cool, and even some of the girls thought he was cool. Except in Hall's case, the loser on the street corner with the toothpick hanging out of his mouth is a grown man, and not only that, but a very successful grown man.

When he hasn't been drinking, Scott Hall walks around with a cocky look on his face and makes funny motions with his arms as the NWO Hollywood music comes on. About the most intriguing thing he does is grab the microphone and asks the fans, "Who did you come to see?" He's at his coolest when he ignores the pro-NWO Wolfpac cheers and pro-claims the fans came to see the black and white. Judging by the number of black-and-white-clad, toothpick-chewing teenagers we see at WCW cards, his attitude must be rubbing off on somebody.



Terri RUNNELS

Terri laughed when she heard about the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky cigar scandal.

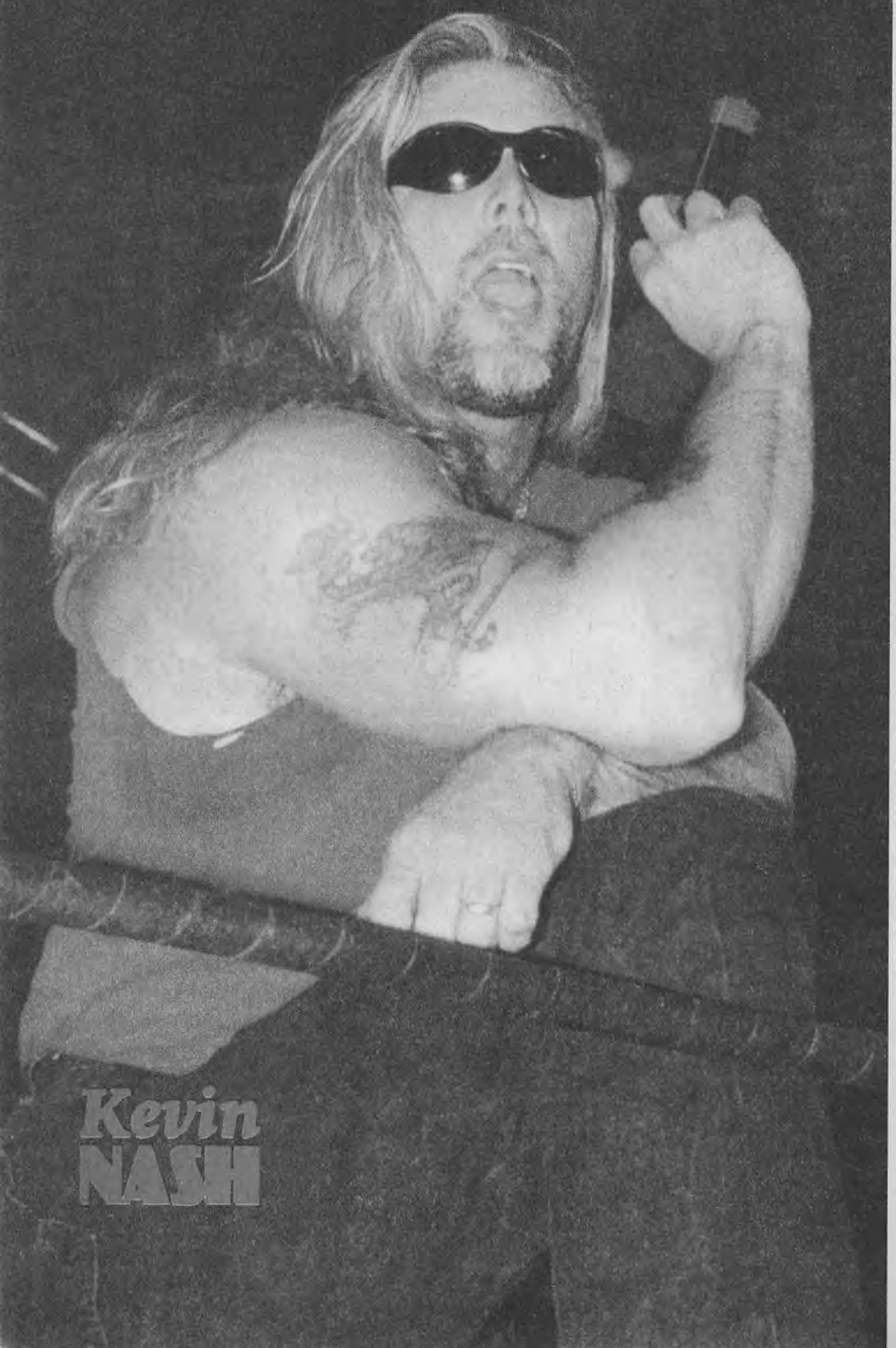
"No sense wasting a good cigar," she said in her husky voice. "I smoke mine."

The compact dynamo with the styled blonde hair and outlandish dresses laughed after she said it. Not that she's an astute observer of the political scene, but she is an astute smoker of cigars and wearer of expensive makeup. These days she's hanging out with Val Venis while jealous husband Dustin tries to control his anger. Her sexually explicit display with Venis at the WWF's Break Down pay-per-view was grounds for divorce. Not that Terri cared.

"We live in a sexually permissive world," Terri growled. "The only difference is that unlike most women, I don't ask permission."

Nobody knew the real Diesel until he started appearing on TV talk shows, like *Live With Regis And Kathie Lee,* and let his true personality shine. That's when Diesel, then the WWF World champion, became Kevin Nash, and we came to know a man unlike so many other champions: warm, honest, personable. The kind of wrestler who could carry on a long conversation without once talking about himself.

In an era in which champions are larger than life, Nash, who is no longer a champion, relates to us. His eyes speak thousands of words. They take on a playful, goofy look when he's joking around, and his crooked, one-sided smile tells us, "It's only wrestling." And, of course, he is a bear of a man, at 7', 356 pounds, with a handsome—but not overwhelmingly gorgeous—face framed by long, flowing blond-streaked brown hair. He has never taken life too seriously.



Kevin NASH

Rey MISTERIO JR.

A mask would cover up most people. Not Rey Misterio Jr. His colorful masks strikingly set off what little we do see of his face. His soulful brown eyes shine through, telling us of his child-like qualities. Those piercing eyes are his best feature. When you look at Misterio, your attention is immediately diverted to his big browns. They are warm, honest, sensitive. He is barely larger than a child at 5'3", 140 pounds, and just by looking into his eyes, we see that, at heart, Rey Misterio Jr. really is just a child.

What does he look like without the mask? That's something most people will never know.

"I think he goes to bed with his mask on," cracked Eddy Guerrero.

"I do not wear my mask to cover myself up," Misterio said. "I have nothing to hide. I wear it out of respect for the great tradition of Mexican wrestling. If I walked down the street without my mask, nobody would know who I was."

That's doubtful. Misterio's calling card, his eyes, would give him away in an instant.

FRANCINE

Somewhere there must be a man who can tell you about the color of Francine's eyes, the curve of her nose, the shape of her mouth, the lines of her neck. But just about every man who has ever watched an ECW card has never made it above her shoulders. Francine has the killer body that attracts a man's attention and never lets it go.

ECW fans are eternally grateful that Francine doesn't mind showing it off. Short skirts, G-strings, cleavage-revealing tops, six-inch heels. And it ain't easy for a woman dressed like that to step into the ring and not show off a little more. Intentionally or not. Probably intentionally. There is nothing subtle about Francine. When men conjure up their fantasy catfights, Francine is one of the participants.

But beautiful? Is Francine beautiful? Absolutely.

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Chris CANDIDO

Tammy Sytch likes to joke about how she and Chris Candido got together.

"He was the only one with the guts to ask me out," the beautiful Sytch said. "Actually, he didn't ask me out. He just walked up to me and said, 'Dinner tomorrow night. How about it?' We ended up going to Arby's."

Chris Candido doesn't exactly look like an Arby's kind of guy. Roast beef and melted cheese? There doesn't appear to be much around his waist. Not that Candido's cut like Luger or Tom Brandi, but he has the kind of body ... well, let's hand off to Tammy once again.

"He doesn't spend his life in the gym," she said. "He's not one of those guys who can't help but look at himself in the mirror every time he walks by."

Not that Candido isn't bold. He's a cute blond with a boyish face, and he doesn't shy away from the ol' Full Monty ... or at least the half-full monty. A few times he has taken off his tights in the ring, revealing just a G-string underneath.

Bottom line: Candido used to be considered a loser. He's finally getting some much-deserved respect.

BOOKER T

Harlem Heat comes in two varieties. Hot and very hot. There's Stevie Ray, for those who like the typical working male who gets into the ring and does his business. Hot. Then there's Booker T, who has style. Wesley Snipes style. Magic Johnson style. Most people have only seen him in the ring, where his bright tights set off a classically muscular build. But you should see this guy in a suit. Very hot. Scalding.

There really is something about the athletic African-American male that makes him look great in stylish suits. Crisp white shirts set off glowing brown skin. Unusual colors, like blues and purples, look better. The only time we've ever seen Booker T in a suit was after a WCW card in Atlanta. He had a date and wanted to look just right. He looked perfect.

It's sometimes hard to believe Booker T and Stevie Ray are brothers. They don't look alike, nor do they act much alike. And when Booker T is dressed to the nines, the difference is even more startling.

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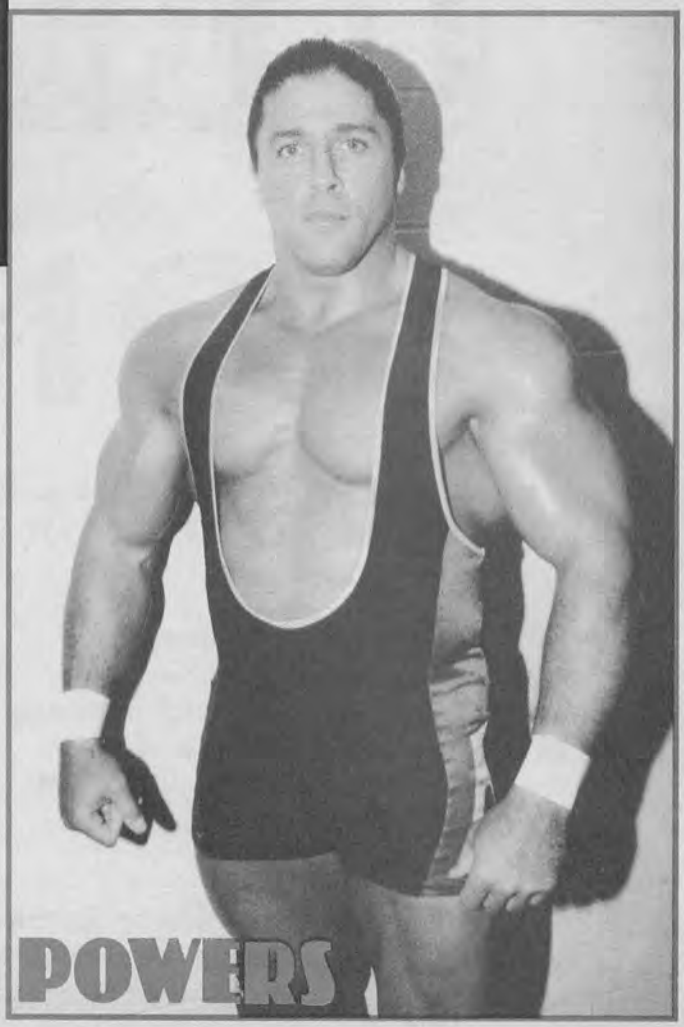
Tiger DREAM

There is always an element of beauty in anything new, whether it is a new car, budding flower, or a child. Tiger Dream embodies this beauty with her mere presence. Once a moderately known female wrestler named Candy Okutsu, Okutsu now symbolizes a new age of the Tiger Mask lineage. From her luminescent pink, gold, and black outfit to the trademark mask of her heritage (modified with female touches, of course), Tiger Dream is the female personification of a once-strictly male legacy.

The beauty of Tiger Dream comes not only from the veiled face of a once-recognizable Japanese star of women's wrestling, but also from the depth of the tradition she has vowed to sustain. Tiger Dream's satiny skin and chestnut brown eyes certainly add to her classic Japanese looks, but her shocking pink hair is anything but traditional.

It remains to be seen if Tiger Dream will live up to her pedigree in Japan's Arison promotion, but one thing is almost certain: The haunting appeal of her eyes might just start a whole new tradition.



Former tag team star Jim Powers has been around for a long time. His endurance has nothing to do with him being in outstanding aerobic shape. He isn't.

"I'm stronger now than I was 10 years ago," Powers boasted. "I can bench press twice as much and dead lift three times as much. Couple of young punks came up to me in the gym the other day and I almost kicked the crap out of both of them. Made some crack about me being an old man. I asked them how they'd like to get killed by an old man."

Powers fits the bill of typical musclemen. He's big. He's strong. His muscles bulge out of his T-shirt. His long hair accentuates his build. Powers looks like a bouncer or a bounty hunter. He's no matinee idol, but attend any weightlifting competition and you'll find dozens of women going crazy over men built exactly like Powers. Powerful. The name fits. He wears it.

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THE FLIP SIDE. My thanks to Courtney Carpentieri, a reader from Gaston, South Carolina, for writing last month's column for me. I really wasn't in the mood. Too much pay-per-view. Vince McMahon overload. I'm seeing Shane McMahon in my dreams, and it's scaring the heck out of my dog. The other day I turned on *Nitro* just in time to see Ric Flair facing off with Eric Bischoff. Bischoff dared Flair to hit him. The fans pleaded with Flair to do so. I pleaded with him to do so. Flair, realizing another lawsuit would have been imminent, held his punch.

This month I'm in the mood. I feel like I could write all night. The theme of this issue is, "The 50 Most Beautiful People In Wrestling," and rather than crack wise about, "How'd they ever find 50?" I'm going to go with the flow.

NEWS FLASH! WE INTERRUPT THIS COLUMN TO BRING YOU THIS IMPORTANT BULLETIN: TERRI RUNNELS IS NOW WITH VAL VENIS. I REPEAT: TERRI RUNNELS IS NOW WITH VAL VENIS.

Excuse me, but isn't Terri Runnels married to Dustin Runnels? Is Terri Runnels Dustin's Bill Clinton? Is Val Venis Terri's Monica Lewinsky? Is Dustin Runnels Hillary Rodham Clinton? Huh?

Gadzooks! And I just got over Dustin Runnels no longer being Goldust. Wait, now he's back to being Goldust again.

Okay, back to the theme of this column. "The 10 Least Beautiful People In Wrestling." My list. I don't care what Brandi Mankiewicz or anyone else says. Some of these people are also on the list of the "50 Most Beautiful People In Wrestling." I say hogwash. They had to fill out the list somehow.

1. Eric Bischoff. Even if I concede that Bischoff has some measure of outer beauty (which is a big concession), his personality completely overshadows his supposed good looks. Eric Bischoff is the singlemost obnoxious man in the history of this planet. Given the choice between spending 10 hours listening to Bill Apter imitate Jerry Lewis or five minutes with Bischoff, I'd pick Apter/Lewis any day of the week. Bischoff is the epitome of inner ugly, outer ugly. Totally ugly.

2. Vince McMahon. Why does he shout so much? Why is he such a cheater? How come some of the richest men in the United States—Wayne Huizenga, George Steinbrenner, Vince McMahon—are also among the most annoying? You can just see he wants to be a wrestler, so why doesn't he wrestle Steve Austin already?

3. Hollywood Hogan. If it's possible to be too tan, Hogan is too tan. If it's possible to have too many muscles, Hogan has too many muscles. If it's possible to say the same thing a thousand times for three years straight, Hogan has done that,

The Sandman might be a very attractive man if he cleaned himself up a little and didn't smoke and drink practically all the time. Oh, but he does like his beer and his cigarettes. A lot.

too. Listen, I don't care if Hogan is a supposed fan favorite or rulebreaker, I don't care if he's wearing black and white or telling little kids to take their vitamins. Hogan is a phony.

4. Mankind/Cactus Jack. There is something living in that hair of his. It's probably warm and fuzzy, and it might even have wings, but it's not the kind of thing that should be living in a human being's hair.

5. Missy Hyatt. There was a time when I lusted after Missy Hyatt. Oh, she was impressive! Tall, blonde, busty, long-legged. I still remember the day she came up to the offices of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED for a photo shoot. She was even better-looking in person than she was in pictures. But now when I look at Missy Hyatt, I still see an attractive woman, but I also see a woman who's stomping on the grave of her ex-husband, Eddie Gilbert. Missy Hyatt is a creep.

6. Scott Hall. What's with that hands thing he always used to do when the NWO Hollywood music came on? Can't he just walk to the ring like a normal human being ... and not drink during his matches?

7. The Sandman. I now he's hip and very popular right now, but what's with a man who guzzles beer in the ring between puffs of a cigarette? Can't this guy find 15 minutes in a day when he doesn't have to drink beer and smoke? Can you imagine what his house must smell like?

8. Eric Bischoff. Just kidding.

8. Francine. A little subtlety on her part would be nice. Actually, she's not ugly at all and doesn't really belong on this list, but doesn't she own any real clothes?

9. Eric Bischoff. Kidding again.

9. Dudleys. All of them. Kind of like watching Gary the Retard and Stuttering John on Howard Stern's TV show. There's a town a little east of Tampa, Florida, where carnival sideshow acts spend their winters. The Dudleys should move there. All of them.

10. Eric Bischoff. Just kidding.

10. Alex Wright. Maybe I wouldn't find him so ugly if he weren't so obnoxious and didn't dance all the time.

By the way, in case you were wondering, the most beautiful woman in the history of pro wrestling was Dark Journey. I don't know who the man is, but I know it's not Eric Bischoff. □

Dark Journey, a valet/manager in the NWA during the 1980s, is Dave Rosenbaum's choice of the most beautiful woman in the history of wrestling.

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win lose or draw

By Harry Burkett

THERE ARE A lot of wrestlers dealing with personal demons these days and, unfortunately, their less-than-inspiring private lives are becoming public issues. Fans have witnessed the disturbing scenes. We've seen Hawk stumbling and bumbling in interviews, falling off the entrance runway, and costing his partner matches. We've seen Scott Hall slurring his words, toting his plastic cups, and even becoming nauseous in the ring.

The WWF has curtailed Hawk's ring activity, yet he is still allowed to disrupt events in the arena and offer incomprehensible color commentary. Scott Hall, on the other hand, is still an active competitor in WCW and remains a World tag team champion. But it's widely believed Eric Bischoff will not tolerate his behavior much longer before he takes corrective action.

Are dysfunctional personal lives a new development in wrestling? Of course not. The difference is the huge amount of broadcast time now devoted to the sport. We see wrestlers' entire careers—and their lives—played out on national TV. Secrets were easier to keep in smoke-filled arenas when there were no probing cameras around.

I won't pretend to be familiar with the personal problems of Hawk, Scott Hall, or anyone else for that matter. Personal problems should stay personal. But when those individuals allow their personal failings to spill into the public arena, the dynamics change. That's when it's time for federation officials, their fellow wrestlers, and even the fans to make their voices heard.

I have designed a 12-step program for wrestlers, federation officials, and fans to follow when grapplers fall from grace due to "personal problems":

1. Random breathalizer tests should be administered before cards start.

2. Wrestlers shouldn't be afraid to "tattle" on a peer with a serious problem. The sooner a problem is reported to federation officials, the sooner that individual can receive counseling or treatment.

3. Remember that substance abuse often derives from other complicated issues unrelated to alcohol or drugs. Personal insecurities or traumas probably led to that behavior in the first place.

4. Don't ignore the problem. In other words, don't pretend your tag team partner is ready for a match when it's obvious he isn't. Let's hope Animal has learned his lesson.

5. Tag team wrestlers should not make unreasonable demands of their partners when they are unable to compete at full capacity. It's almost impossible to reason with someone under the influence.

6. True friends should never enable someone abusing alcohol or drugs. Above all, never carry their "brown bags" for them. Yes, that means you, Vincent.

7. Referees should disqualify anyone they suspect to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

8. Affected individuals should be stripped of any titles they hold. Grabbing the ropes in order to sip an

It's really sad to see Hawk entering the ring with some sort of strange headgear and not seeming to know where he is. There are a lot of things a lot of people could do to help him out.

Dusty Rhodes can't stand seeing Scott Hall try to compete in the condition he's been in recently. He'll need to do more than talk to him if he wants to help Hall get his career and life back on the right track.

adult beverage is definitely conduct unbecoming a champion.

9. Fans should not encourage or ridicule the behavior of those showing dependency symptoms. Signs like "Drink Another For Me" and "See You In Rehab" do not help the situation.

10. Wrestlers should not invite those who have had problems with alcohol to parties or hotel lounge get-togethers. And the consumption of alcohol should be prohibited in dressing rooms. That's asking for trouble.

11. Federation officials should exhibit patience while helping a person through the rehabilitation process. Not only could they salvage a valuable employee, but they might save a life as well.

12. Family, friends, and fellow athletes should look past the slurring, the sassing, and the denials. Behind the bravado, there is a human being yearning for a chance at redemption.

Many of us watch wrestling to escape our everyday troubles. That is why it becomes so uncomfortable when we see our favorite personalities mired in their own personal problems. But, if the wrestling community can handle these situations in a responsible manner, these athletes will have a chance to overcome their internal obstacles and soar once again. That will make all of us feel good. □

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ringside

(Continued from page 9)

told her how well she did in her guest-starring role on the TV show *Pacific Blue*, **Sable** says she'd look forward to continuing her acting career. "I feel very comfortable in front of the camera," she says. "I've always wanted to try my hand at acting, and I am totally flattered by the amount of positive mail I've received from the *Pacific Blue* appearance."

Okay, now it's time to address the **Super Nova** controversy. In case you didn't notice, Mr. Nova did not make this year's "*PWI* 500." This does not mean that he is not a skilled wrestler. He just didn't make the cut. A lot of ECW fans were outraged by this and let us know via letter, telephone, and e-mail. This became such a hot issue for a while that even a number of wrestlers who don't know Nova got into the controversy. One in particular was veteran **Dutch Mantel**, who was ranked 289th.

"Hell, I hear the kid and all his fans are really fuming about this," Mantel said. "I was real satisfied with my number, but you know, since this kid and all his followers are so uptight, I hereby give my number 289 to him—with pleasure! I ain't never heard so many people cryin' about anything like this, so if this will stop the damn whinin', the number is yours!"

Nova had no response to Mantel's offer, but he said he was very flattered that thousands of fans poured out their feelings for him.

That's all for now. I'll see you at ringside! □

Dutch Mantel (right) has a few things to say to all those fans of Super Nova (below) who are still furious that he was not ranked in the 1998 "*PWI* 500." And they're not too complimentary.

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the JAPAN REPORT

By Mike Spillane

IT WAS THROUGH matches featuring thumbtacks, barbed wire, and broken glass that **Atsushi Onita** almost singlehandedly built the reputation of Frontier Martial Arts Wrestling as the most hardcore promotion in the pro ranks. But now, nearly 10 years later, the "King Of Hardcore" finds himself unwelcome in the very federation he once called home.

Onita, dubbed "Mr. Liar" for returning to the ring after a brief retirement, saw the complexion of FMW change in his absence, as aerial stars like **Hayabusa** and power grapplers like **Masato Tanaka** rose to prominence after promoters and matchmakers all but abandoned the gory specialty matches of Onita's heyday. Now, after his return, Onita hopes to reinstate the kinds of matches that made him famous just a few short years ago.

How serious is Onita about his comeback? Well, he has gone so far as to challenge his old rival **The Great Pogo** in an effort to reprise some of their hardcore bouts, both in singles and in tag team matches. Yet fan reaction to the challenge has been mixed. While some long for the epic bloodbaths, others prefer the more recent trend of standard wrestling matches. Much to Onita's chagrin, FMW officials and competitors are strongly opposed to the return of this style, and are trying to prevent Onita from exerting too much influence over FMW matchmaking.

Scott "Flash" Norton defeated Yuji Nagata for the vacant IWGP heavyweight title on September 23. Former champ Masa Chono was forced to vacate the belt after suffering a serious spinal injury.

The IWGP junior heavyweight title is still in the possession of **Jushin "Thunder" Liger**, New Japan's most dominant lightweight. Liger recently defended the title twice, first defeating Michinoku Pro's **Great Sasuke,** then pinning WCW star **Kaz Hayashi** after a palm strike to the face.

In the wake of these matches, two athletes from Michinoku Pro have issued an open challenge to all the junior-weight stars of New Japan. **Tiger Mask IV** and **Naohiro Hoshikawa** have promised to defeat whomever necessary to gain title shots at both Liger's IWGP junior heavyweight title and the IWGP junior heavyweight tag team straps held by **Shinjiro Otani** and **Tatsuhito Takaiwa.**

The heavyweight ranks of New Japan saw a major shakeup when newly crowned IWGP champion **Masa Chono** was forced to vacate the title after incurring a serious spinal cord injury. The top two contenders, **Scott Norton** and **Yuji Nagata,** squared off for the vacant title, with Norton winning by pinfall after a power bomb and two hard clotheslines. Norton follows **Hulk Hogan** and **Vader** as the third American to hold the belt.

Fans of **Mitsuharu Misawa** are glad to see the former All-Japan Triple Crown champion back in action after taking some time off the recover from a spate of injuries. Misawa has handily defeated some of the lower-ranked contenders for **Kenta Kobashi's** Triple Crown, and is making headway toward a title shot. Many speculate that Misawa will challenge Kobashi at the end of the next All-Japan tour. In the meantime, Misawa has formed a new tag team with current AJPW junior heavyweight champ **Yoshinari Ogawa,** creating quite a stir among All-Japan fans. By choosing to team with Misawa, Ogawa will be forced to wrestle opponents out of his weight class, putting him at a disadvantage in every match. Still, the duo sees this as a learning experience that can only benefit the young champ.

While Misawa is busy climbing the ladder of contenders, Kobashi continues to defeat all challengers. Kobashi added even more credibility to his staying power as champion when he defeated **Akira Taue** with a lariat in his latest defense.

Soo da sayonara! □

the MEXICO REPORT

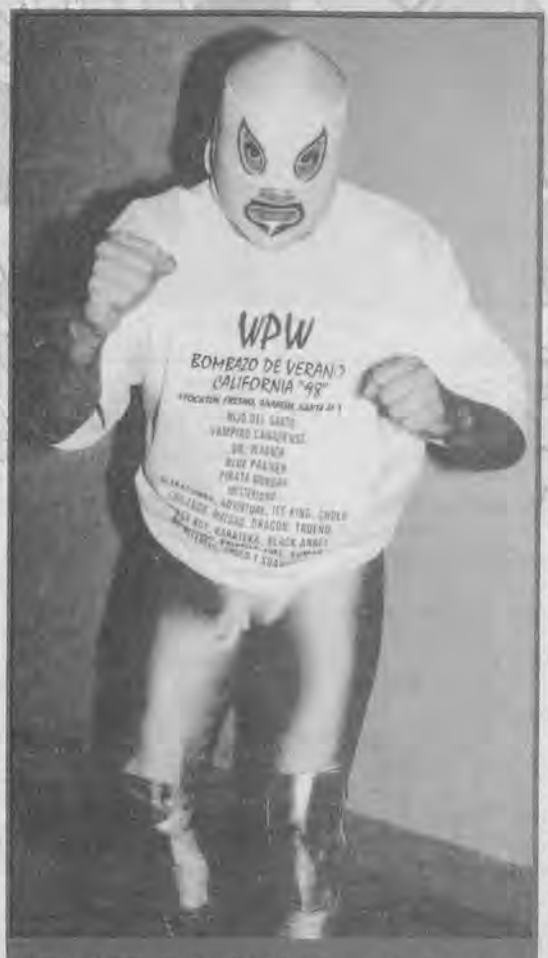
By John Molinaro

EVER SINCE THEY returned in August, **Miguel Perez Jr.** and his Puerto Rican clique have been terrorizing all of EMLL's Mexican wrestlers. In response, the promotion's top *technicos* and *rudos* have joined together to battle this foreign team on behalf of their home country.

At EMLL's second card commemorating its 65th anniversary on September 18 at the world-renowned Arena Mexico in Mexico City, the federation's top *technico*, **Emilio Charles Jr.**, teamed with *rudos* **Cien Caras** and **Mascara Ano Dos Mil** to defeat **Perez, El Boriqua**, and **Kevin Quinn** in the top match. The Puerto Rico vs. Mexico was not limited to the main event, though, as **Ricky Santana** defeated **Apolo Dantes** in a bloody hair vs. hair match due to outside interference from Boriqua.

In other EMLL news, **Rayo de Jalisco Jr.** won the CMLL heavyweight title for the second time by defeating **Universo Dos Mil** on September 13 in Guadalajara ... **Mr. Aguila** lost a mask vs. mask match to arch-enemy **Ultimo Guerrero** in front of 10,000 fans in Mexico City on September 11 ... **Fuerza Guerrera** left AAA and debuted in EMLL recently. Upon arriving, Guerrera attacked **Negro Casas** during an interview, and the two are now embroiled in a bitter feud ... After months of contemplating a return to his former *technico* ways, **El Hijo del Santo** finally did just that and teamed with former rivals Negro Casas and **Atlantis** against former *rudo* partners **Scorpio Jr., Bestia Salvaje**, and **Black Warrior**.

In AAA news, **Los Vipers** (**Psicosis II, Histeria II, Maniaco**, and **Mosco de la Merced II**) defeated **Los Payasos** in the National Atomicos (eight-man tag) tournament final at Juan de la Barrera Gym (the sight of countless legendary matches involving the late **"Love Machine" Art Barr** and the infamous *rudo* clique **Los Gringos Locos** in 1994, when AAA was at the height of its popularity) in Mexico City ... After competing for six months as a *technico*, **Pentagon** reverted to his former *rudo* ways on September 3 in Toluca when he turned against his partners in a six-man tag match. Later on, he interfered on behalf of *rudo* **Abismo Negro** and helped him retain his Mexican middleweight title in a match against **Octagon**.



El Hijo del Santo's brief stint as a *rudo* came to an end this summer. Fans of EMLL are once again on his side.

One of the hottest independent promotions in Mexico right now is *Grupo Revolucion*, based in Naucalpan. The promotion features promising young wrestlers trained by **Ultimo Dragon** such as **Tokyo Magnum, Judo Suwa**, and **Shima Nobunaga**, as well as some local talent and some stars from EMLL. Among the top stars to have appeared there recently are **Dr. Wagner Jr., Mr. Niebla, Norman Smiley, The Headhunters**, and **Pantera**. Pantera has been feuding with Magnum, the IWRG middleweight champion, of late.

IWRG welterweight champion **Dr. Cerebero** narrowly escaped with his mask after taking part in two stipulation matches in the space of one month. He first defeated **Oro Jr.** (who revealed himself to be **Mickey Segura**) in a mask vs. mask match, then competed in a triangle match with Segura and **Bombero Infernal** in which each man put up either his hair or his mask. The match came down to Cerebero and Infernal, with Cerebero winning and forcing Infernal to unmask.

In Promo Azteca news, **La Parka** recovered from his recent injuries and defeated **Pirata Morgan** for the IWC heavyweight title. Because he lost the title and because of the inactivity of Promo Azteca as a whole, Morgan has left the group to compete in Puerto Rico's World Wrestling Council.

Azteca's already depleted roster took another major hit when National welterweight champion **El Torero** left for EMLL. Promo Azteca may be on its last legs, as its return to network TV in Mexico doesn't appear to be imminent. It's quite sobering to watch Azteca fall apart so quickly after bursting upon the Lucha Libre scene in late-1996 as the hottest promotion in Mexico. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

TOP 10

1. **STEVE AUSTIN**
   252, Victoria, TX
   (1) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
2. **BILL GOLDBERG**
   270, Tulsa, OK
   (2) WCW World champion
3. **KEN SHAMROCK**
   235, San Bernardino, CA
   (-) WWF Intercontinental champion
4. **THE UNDERTAKER**
   328, parts unknown
   (4) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
5. **DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE**
   260, Tampa, FL
   (7) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
6. **KANE**
   345, parts unknown
   (6) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
7. **BRET HART**
   235, Calgary, Alberta
   (3) WCW U.S. champion
8. **KENTA KOBASHI**
   261, Fukuchiyama, Japan
   (-) All-Japan Triple Crown champion
9. **ROCKY MAIVIA**
   272, Miami, FL
   (-) No. 6 contender: WWF World title
10. **ROB VAN DAM**
    237, Battle Creek, MI
    (-) ECW TV champion

The Undertaker

TAG TEAMS

1. **BILLY GUNN & JESSE JAMES**
   Combined weight: 496 pounds
   (2) WWF World tag team champions
2. **SABU & ROB VAN DAM**
   Combined weight: 457 pounds
   (1) ECW tag team champions
3. **TOSHIAKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAUE**
   Combined weight: 510 pounds
   (4) All-Japan International tag team champions
4. **SHIRO KOSHINAKA & GENICHIRO TENRYU**
   Combined weight: 555 pounds
   (5) IWGP tag team champions
5. **LEX LUGER & KEVIN NASH**
   Combined weight: 621 pounds
   (3) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
6. **BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   (6) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title
7. **THE HEADBANGERS**
   Combined weight: 488 pounds
   (9) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
8. **KANE & THE UNDERTAKER**
   Combined weight: 673 pounds
   (-) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
9. **STEVEN DUNN & RENO RIGGINS**
   Combined weight: 471 pounds
   (8) NWA North American tag team champions
10. **BORDER PATROL**
    Combined weight: 514 pounds
    (-) NWA tag team champions

WCW

World Champion:
BILL GOLDBERG
(C) 270, Tulsa, OK

1. **BRET HART** *(1) 235, Calgary, Alberta*
2. **DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE** *(4) 260, Tampa, FL*
3. **STING** *(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA*
4. **HOLLYWOOD HOGAN** *(2) 275, Venice Beach, CA*
5. **CHRIS JERICHO** *(5) 225, Vancouver, B.C.*
6. **PERRY SATURN** *(-) 234, Boston, MA*
7. **BILLY KIDMAN** *(8) 195, Allentown, PA*
8. **THE GIANT** *(-) 510, parts unknown*
9. **LEX LUGER** *(7) 265, Chicago, IL*
10. **JUVENTUD GUERRERA** *(6) 165, Mexico City, Mexico*

WWF

World Champion:
TITLE VACANT

1. **KEN SHAMROCK** *(9) 235, San Bernardino, CA*
2. **STEVE AUSTIN** *(2) 252, Victoria, TX*
3. **THE UNDERTAKER** *(3) 328, parts unknown*
4. **KANE** *(4) 345, parts unknown*
5. **X-PAC** *(8) 212, Minneapolis, MN*
6. **ROCKY MAIVIA** *(5) 272, Miami, FL*
7. **MANKIND** *(6) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM*
8. **D-LO BROWN** *(7) 305, Bronx, NY*
9. **MARK HENRY** *(-) 413, Austin, TX*
10. **CHRISTIAN CAGE** *(-) 225, Toronto, Ontario*

NWA

NWA Champion:
DAN SEVERN
(C) 265, Detroit, MI

1. **COLORADO KID** *(1) 231, Denver, CO*
2. **BARRY WINDHAM** *(2) 273, Sweetwater, TX*
3. **DOUG GILBERT** *(3) 241, Lexington, TN*
4. **STEVIE RICHARDS** *(4) 227, Philadelphia, PA*
5. **AL SNOW** *(5) 232, Lima, OH*
6. **MR. GILLIS** *(6) 221, Vancouver, B. C.*
7. **DORY FUNK JR.** *(7) 250, Amarillo, TX*
8. **ACTION JACKSON** *(8) 300, Dallas, TX*
9. **SID VICIOUS** *(9) 318, West Memphis, AR*
10. **STEVEN REGAL** *(10) 247, Blackpool, England*

ECW

ECW Champion:
SHANE DOUGLAS
(C) 240, Pittsburgh, PA

1. **ROB VAN DAM** *(1) 237, Battle Creek, MI*
2. **BAM BAM BIGELOW** *(8) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ*
3. **CHRIS CANDIDO** *(4) 226, Carteret, NJ*
4. **SABU** *(2) 220, Bombay*
5. **LANCE STORM** *(-) 234, Calgary, Alberta*
6. **JUSTIN CREDIBLE** *(7) 225, Waterbury, CT*
7. **MASATO TANAKA** *(5) 235, Tokyo, Japan*
8. **TOMMY DREAMER** *(10) 245, Yonkers, NY*
9. **NEW JACK** *(-) 225, Philadelphia, PA*
10. **DANNY DORING** *(-) 230, Calgary, Alberta*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended October 19, 1998

ALL-PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Maxx Justice; **1**—Michael Modest; **2**—Tony Jones; **3**—Christopher Daniels; **4**—Frank Murdoch; **5**—Boyce LeGrande; **6**—Erin O' Grady; **7**—Jason C. Clay; **8**—Robert Thompson; **9**—Vic Grimes; **10**—Jimmy Ripp.

BAD BOYS OF WRESTLING: Champion—Jake Roberts; **1**—Honky Tonk Man; **2**—Greg Valentine; **3**—King Kong Bundy; **4**—Luminous; **5**—Action Jackson; **6**—Cedman; **7**—Dusty Wolfe; **8**—Terry Gordy; **9**—Derek Stone; **10**—Danny Dane.

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION: Champion—Christian Cage; **1**—Inferno Kid; **2**—Reckless Youth; **3**—Lance Diamond; **4**—Glen Osbourne; **5**—Ace Darling; **6**—Devon Storm; **7**—Mr. Ooh La La; **8**—Mark Shrader; **9**—Shawn Stasiak; **10**—Andrew Martin.

ETERNITY WRESTLING ASSOCIATION: Champion—Billy Rivell; **1**—Tommy Force; **2**—Darren Ryan; **3**—3-D; **4**—Tito Santana; **5**—Demolition Ax; **6**—King Kong Bundy; **7**—Cousin Luke; **8**—Rik Ratchet; **9**—Dr. Hurtz; **10**—Tom Brandi.

GREAT SOUTH WRESTLING: Champion—Tugboat Taylor; **1**—Rafael; **2**—Chaz; **3**—The Patriot; **4**—The Grappler; **5**—Top Cop; **6**—The Buffalo Soldier; **7**—Chris Youngblood; **8**—Bull Dozer; **9**—Brother Icarus; **10**—Black Bart.

MID-SOUTH PROMOTIONS: Champion—Mr. Wrestling III; **1**—One Man Gang; **2**—Kevin Northcutt; **3**—Redd Dogg; **4**—Casey Blaze; **5**—John Saxon; **6**—Mercury McCloud; **7**—Mr. Nasty; **8**—Kent Truth; **9**—Kerry Rockwood; **10**—Terry Bryant.

MUSIC CITY WRESTLING: Champion—Colorado Kid; **1**—Flash Flanagan; **2**—Al Snow; **3**—Shane Eden; **4**—Wolfie D; **5**—Bart Sawyer; **6**—Brickhouse Brown; **7**—Robert Gibson; **8**—Reno Riggins; **9**—Steven Dunn; **10**—Jason Gibson.

NEW DIMENSION WRESTLING: Champion—Tully Blanchard; **1**—Rick Link; **2**—Rick Morton; **3**—Manny Fernandez; **4**—Bobby Fulton; **5**—Pez Whatley; **6**—Jackie Fulton; **7**—Jimmy Valiant; **8**—Rikki Nelson; **9**—Madd Maxx; **10**—Surge.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Julio Sanchez; **1**—Reckless Youth; **2**—Don Montoya; **3**—Mike Quackenbush; **4**—The Edge; **5**—Chris Krueger; **6**—Glen Osbourne; **7**—Lance Diamond; **8**—Flash Flanagan; **9**—Armageddon; **10**—Mr. Ooh La La.

POWER PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Title Vacant; **1**—Jerry Lawler; **2**—Bill Dundee; **3**—Brian Christopher; **4**—Psycho Sid; **5**—Billy Travis; **6**—Streak; **7**—Kid Wikkid; **8**—Derrick King; **9**—Lance Jade; **10**—Blade.

PRO WRESTLING XPRESS: Champion—Sean Evans; **1**—The Mauler; **2**—The Player; **3**—Samu; **4**—Quinn Magnum; **5**—Papa Gator; **6**—T. Rantula; **7**—Bubba the Bulldog; **8**—Barry Ray; **9**—Mr. Big; **10**—Brandon K.

RHODE ISLAND/NEW ENGLAND WRESTLING: Champion—Pierre the Mountie; **1**—Bad News; **2**—Wolverine; **3**—Pvt. Terry Daniels; **4**—Thrash; **5**—Danger Boy Alfredo; **6**—Danny Cama; **7**—The Punisher; **8**—Tito Santana; **9**—Dallas Austin; **10**—Danny Brannigan.

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:
SCOTT NORTON
(C) 360, Minneapolis, MN

1—YUJI NAGATA
(1) 220, Tokyo, Japan
2—SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(2) 287, Gisu, Japan
3—KEIJI MUTO
(3) 245, Tokyo, Japan
4—KENSUKE SASAKI
(4) 233, Tokyo, Japan
5—HIROYOSHI TENZAN
(5) 270, Tokyo, Japan
6—GENICHIRO TENRYU
(6) 235, Fukui, Japan
7—TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(7) 234, Oita, Japan
8—JUSHIN LIGER
(8) 206, Hiroshima, Japan
9—SHINJIRO OTANI
(9) 215, Yokohama, Japan
10—SHIRO KOSHINAKA
(10) 225, Tokyo, Japan

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:
KENTA KOBASHI
(C) 261, Tokyo, Japan

1—MITSUHARU MISAWA
(1) 228, Saitama, Japan
2—TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(2) 245, Tizhigi, Japan
3—JUN AKIYAMA
(3) 230, Hiroshima, Japan
4—AKIRA TAUE
(4) 265, Tokyo, Japan
5—JOHNNY ACE
(5) 250, San Bernardino, CA
6—STAN HANSEN
(6) 322, Borger, TX
7—JINSEI SHINZAKI
(7) 223, Tokyo, Japan
8—TAKAO OMORI
(8) 221, Tokyo, Japan
9—YOSHINARI OGAWA
(9) 202, Fichigi, Japan
10—JOHNNY SMITH
(10) 235, Manchester, England

EMLL

EMLL Champion:
RAYO DE JALISCO JR.
(C) 270, Guadalajara, Mexico

1—APOLO DANTES
(1) 215, Guadalajara, Mexico
2—NEGRO CASAS
(2) 175, Mexico City, Mexico
3—EL HIJO DEL SANTO
(3) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico
4—DR. WAGNER JR.
(4) 215, Mexico City, Mexico
5—BLUE PANTHER
(5) 215, Mexico City, Mexico
6—VILLANO IV
(6) 198, Naucalpan, Mexico
7—MIGUEL PEREZ JR.
(-) 232, San Juan, Puerto Rico
8—KEVIN QUINN
(-) 210, Chicago, IL
9—FUERZA GUERRERA
(-) 180, Mexico City, Mexico
10—RICKY SANTANA
(-) 239, San Juan, Puerto Rico

AAA

AAA Champion:
PERRO AGUAYO
(C) 220, Zacatecas, Mexico

1—ABISMO NEGRO
(1) 210, Pachua, Mexico
2—HEAVY METAL
(2) 180, Mexico City, Mexico
3—BLUE DEMON JR.
(3) 180, Toluca, Mexico
4—PENTAGON
(4) 175, Pachuca, Mexico
5—OCTAGON
(5) 182, Mexico City, Mexico
6—LATIN LOVER
(6) 190, Monterrey, Mexico
7—PERRO AGUAYO JR.
(7) 165, Zacatecas, Mexico
8—MANIACO
(8) 210, Mexico City, Mexico
9—CIBERNETICO
(9) 235, Mexico City, Mexico
10—LUDXOR
(10) 170, Tijuana, Mexico

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 22 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

His first taste of gold. After 18 months in the WWF, **Ken Shamrock** finally has a championship belt that he can strap around his waist. When **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** was stripped of the Intercontinental title due to his knee injury, Shamrock was one of the lucky eight men to be selected by **Vince McMahon** to participate in the tournament for the belt.

Ken Shamrock

If there were any doubts about whether Shamrock really was changing and becoming more ruthless in the ring, they were put to rest during the tournament. It's perfectly clear now that Shamrock will do whatever it takes to win. And he doesn't care what the fans or any of his fellow wrestlers think of him.

He certainly didn't feel bad about wrestling an injured **Steve Blackman**—who is supposedly one of his best friends in the WWF—in the quarterfinals. He also went after **X-Pac** at the conclusion of X-Pac's semifinal win over **Mankind**. X-Pac was in bad enough shape after that attack that there was some question about whether he'd be able to compete in the finals. He did, and although he managed to reach the ropes several times as Shamrock applied his anklelock, Shamrock kept pulling him back into the center of the ring and reapplying the hold. Eventually, X-Pac, who appeared to be bleeding from the mouth and nose, was in so much pain that he had no choice but to tap out.

Shamrock's ranked number three in this month's Top 10 and has a good chance of remaining there as long as he remains Intercontinental champion. So perhaps he did make the right move in resorting to dirtier tactics. But he ought to study the careers of other fan favorites who have turned bad in the recent past.

All too often we see wrestlers blessed with a wealth of scientific skill turn bad and then seemingly forget how skilled they are. They'll be so focused on using every dirty, underhanded tactic in the book that they stop relying on their natural talents. If Shamrock has decided to turn his back on the fans, fine, but it would be a real shame if he insisted on cheating to win every match. He has shown many, many times in the past that he does *not* need to do that.

This 'n' that ... Maybe Shamrock followed the lead of **The Headbangers**, who are also resorting to more, um, *aggressive* tactics. Unlike Shamrock, **Mosh** and **Thrasher** *weren't* enjoying a lot of success as fan favorites in recent months. Sure, the fans were behind them when they captured their one and so far only WWF World tag team title in September 1997, but they seemed to be lacking focus before they sneak-attacked **The Oddities** back in September. Then, within a few weeks, they were named the number-one contenders to the tag team title. We have them listed as number-one contenders in this issue as well. We wouldn't be at all surprised to see them win those belts again.

Juventud Guerrera

WCW cruiserweight champion **Billy Kidman** doesn't make the list, either. Though he has picked up some impressive wins over the likes of **Juventud Guerrera**, **Prince Iaukea**, **Kaz Hayashi**, and TV champ **Chris Jericho**, he has also lost to **Scott Hall** and **Ernest Miller** recently (non-title matches), so he doesn't make the cut this time.

Once again, Scott Hall and **The Giant**, the reigning WCW World tag team champions, are not ranked in our tag team ratings. Does that title mean *anything* anymore?

More proof that the fact that you hold a title in a major federation doesn't guarantee you a great spot in the ratings: WWF European champ **D-Lo Brown** is not in the overall Top 10 this issue. That's mainly because he hasn't successfully defended his title against enough *different* quality opponents. And he was lucky to escape with wins by disqualification in a number of matches with X-Pac.

That's all we have for now! If you have any questions or comments regarding our ratings or what you see on this page, we'd love to hear from you! Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

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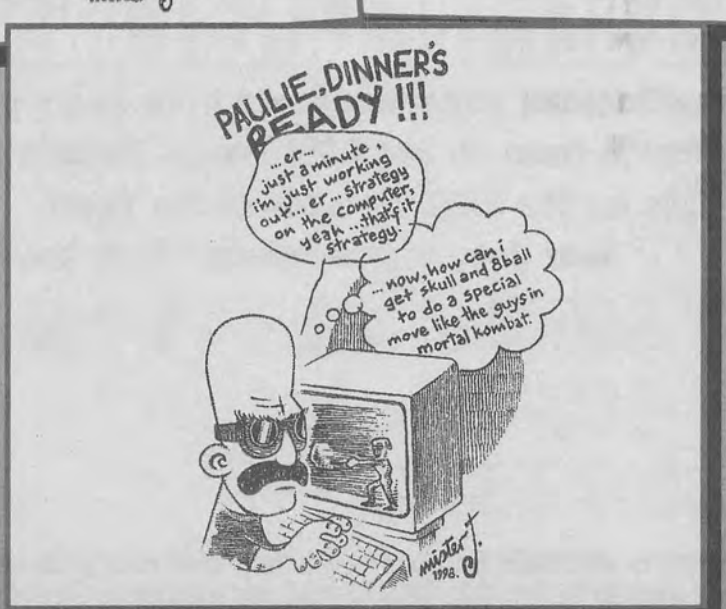
drawing BLOOD

By Jason Conlan


PAULIE, DINNER'S READY !!!
...er... just a minute, i'm just working out... er... strategy on the computer, yeah ...that's it strategy.
... now, how can i get skull and 8ball to do a special move like the guys in mortal kombat.
mister J.
1998.

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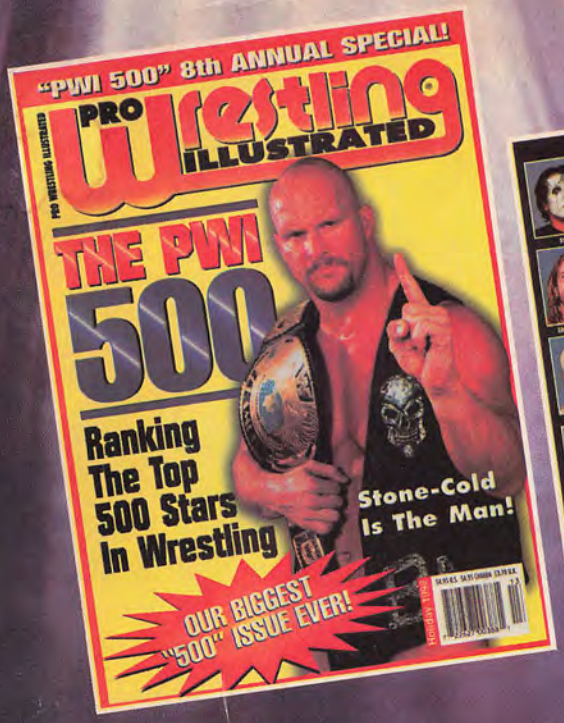
HOT SHOT

When people think of professional wrestlers who can also play basketball, Kevin Nash, a former Tennessee Volunteer standout, immediately comes to mind. But what about Reno Riggins, who also competes in Tennessee? Not only is Riggins an NWA North American tag team champion with Steven Dunn, but he also happens to be a great shot from the free throw line. We just hope Riggins' rebounding skills were strong enough to allow him to catch Flash Flanagan, who banked himself off the glass for some extra leverage.

Photo by Steve Bryant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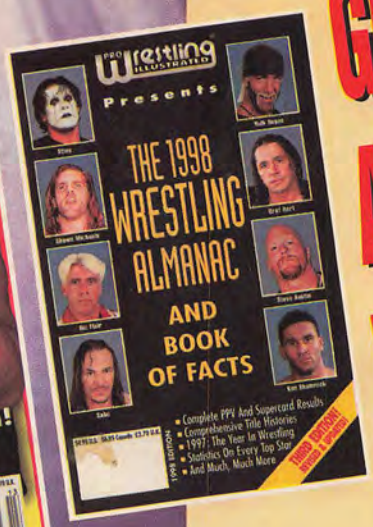
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